

# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

FALL 2014 SEASON, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely .....	3
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2014-2015, Blaine R. Ferrell .....	17
FIELD NOTE, A Brown Creeper Nest on Little Black Mountain, Harlan County .....	34
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	35

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## THE COVER

We thank Mary W. Yandell for the image of the Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) taken 30 August 2014 at the former Camp #11 mine complex in Union County (see **Fall 2014 Season**, p. 8). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue has been provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## FALL 2014 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Weather conditions during fall 2014 were somewhat variable. Temperatures during August through October were relatively normal, but November was cooler than normal statewide, with most stations recording a mean temperature about 7°F below normal. The low monthly average was caused in large part due to a several-day period of well below normal temperatures during the middle of the month. Precipitation was much more variable during the season. August was abnormally wet, with major recording stations tallying from more than two times to about three and a half times normal rainfall. In fact, Bowling Green (11.33 in) and Paducah (7.85 in) tallied record amounts of rainfall for the month. In contrast, September trended drier than normal across most of the state, especially in the western half where Bowling Green received about one-tenth normal rainfall. October precipitation then became normal to slightly above normal across most of the state, although Jackson received a record amount (7.77 in). Finally, November ended the four-month period with below normal precipitation statewide.

Rarity highlights included Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Roseate Spoonbill, Hudsonian Godwit, Sabine's Gull, Say's Phoebe, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Irruptive winter finches were low in number, with small numbers of Pine Siskins and Purple Finches being the only ones to appear. Red-breasted Nuthatches were nearly absent.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

**Abbreviations** – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report. **Place names:** Adkins Swamp, Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg; Anchorage Trail, Jefferson; Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon; Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren; Beckley Creek Park, e. Jefferson; Berea, Madison; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Camp #9 = Camp #9 Coal Preparation Plant, Union; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 Mine, Union; Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan; Cherokee Park, Jefferson; Clear Creek = Clear Creek embayment, Ky Lake, Marshall; Douglass Hills, e. Jefferson; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Fishing Creek = Fishing Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, Pulaski; Freeman Lake, Hardin; Glasgow, Barren; Greenville, Muhlenberg; Horseshoe Road, sloughs along Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; Jacobson Park, Lexington, Fayette; J.J. Audubon SP, Henderson; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, Marshall; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Ky Dam Village = Ky Dam Village SRP, Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Livingston/Lyon/Marshall/Trigg; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Reba, Madison; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Lick Creek = Lake Barkley at the mouth of Lick Creek, Lyon; Little River = Little River embayment of Lake Barkley, Trigg; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. Fulton; Luzerne Lake, Muhlenberg; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, Jefferson; Meldahl Dam, on the Ohio River, Bracken; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; nw. of Powderly = Muhlenberg County Rail Trail nw. of Powderly; Owsley Fork Lake, Madison (unless otherwise noted); Pope Lick Park, [formerly Floyds Fork Park], Jefferson; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Shaker Village, Mercer; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA,

*Muhlenberg*, *Sledd Creek* = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Marshall*; *Spindletop Farm* = University of Kentucky Spindletop Research Farm, *Fayette*; *SNP* = State Nature Preserve; *SP* = State Park; *SRP* = State Resort Park; *Surrey Hills Farm*, ne. *Jefferson*; *Uniontown Dam*, on the Ohio River, *Union*; *Waitsboro* = Lake Cumberland at Waitsboro Recreation Area, *Pulaski*; *Wildcat Creek* = Wildcat Creek embayment, Ky Lake, *Calloway*; *WMA* = Wildlife Management Area; *Wolf Creek Dam*, *Russell*.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – 37 over Sauerheber 24 October (BP) and 5 at Camp #11 on 26 October (BP, BBC) were the earliest to be reported; 1000 were at Sauerheber by 14 November (CC) with 2000 there by 30 November (JM). Also of interest were 30 over Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 6 November (MBy).

**Snow Goose** – 20 over the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 24 October (KMi) were the earliest to be reported; 1000 were at Sauerheber by 12 November (CC) with 6900 there by 23 November (LSg, KMc). Also of interest were ca. 50 near Danville, *Boyle*, 13 November (JKi).

**Ross's Goose** – there was only one report: 1 along the West Somerset Bypass, *Pulaski*, 17 November (RD).

**Mute Swan** – the family group at Adkins Swamp (2 ads., 2 juvs.) was present 1/28 September (TG, SG).

**Tundra Swan** – 55 were first seen at Sauerheber 14 November (CC) with 150 seen there 28 November (CC). The only other reports were of 40+ on Cave Run Lake 13 November (MWr) and 6 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 28 November (CC).

**Gadwall** – local peak counts included 75+ at Camp #11 on 24 October (BP, CC); 250 on Barren River Lake 29 October (MBy), 200 at Jonathan Creek (HC) and 530 at Cave Run Lake (BWu), both 6 November; and 250 at Sauerheber 30 November (JM).

**American Wigeon** – 25 at the Madisonville City Park, *Hopkins*, 13 November (BC); 75 at Long Point 21 November (HC); and 36 at Sauerheber 30 November (JM) represented modest peak counts for the season.

**Blue-winged Teal** – 6 at Otter Pond, *Caldwell*, 3 August (BP, MM) appeared to be a family group, perhaps of local origin; ca.

30 were at Camp #11 by 24 August (BP, EH) with 50+ there 30 August (BP et al.), 100+ there 3/5 September (BP/BP, EH, MY, SG, TG), and 150-200 there 16 September (BP, EH). Additional peak counts included 225 at Blood River 14 September (HC) with 245 there 21 September (HC); ca. 75 at Little River 20 September (BP, BWu, TSh); 180 at Jonathan Creek (BWu et al.) and at least 180 on the Mississippi River at Island No. 8, *Fulton*, (BY, ph. MY), both 21 September; 130 at Sauerheber 14 September (CC) with 250 there 4 October (CC); and 200 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 4 October (BL).

**Northern Shoveler** – 7 were at Camp #11 by 24 August (BP, EH) with 35-40 there 24 October (BP, CC); also of interest were ca. 50 at Jacobson Park 6 November (RO).

**Northern Pintail** – 1 at Sauerheber 7/14 September (CC) and 2 at Camp #11 on 16 September (BP, EH) were the earliest to be reported. Also of interest were 10-12 at Jonathan Creek 21 September (BWu, JS, et al.); 6 on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP et al.); and 20 at Sauerheber 30 November (CC).

**Green-winged Teal** – 1 was at Camp #11 by 3 September (BP) with 10+ there by 16 September (BP, EH) and 120+ there 24 October (BP, CC).

**Canvasback** – 2 on Freeman Lake 6 November (JBa) were the earliest to be reported; 210 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 20 November (BL) represented a modest peak count for the season.

**Redhead** – 5 at Camp #9 on 24 October (BP, CC) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 18 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 November (EH et al.) with 20 there 13 November (BP et al.); and 29 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 on 21 November (RO).



**Ring-necked Duck** – singles on Freeman Lake (AM) and on Owsley Fork Lake (RBa, RFo), both 11 October, were the earliest to be reported; 300 were at Sauerheber by 30 November (JM).

**Greater Scaup** – 3 on Freeman Lake 12 November (EH, BP) and 2 above Uniontown Dam 20 November (CC) were the earliest to be reported.

**Lesser Scaup** – 1 on Lake Linville 1 August (RD) may have summered; 450 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 2 November (HC), 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 November (EH, JBa, et al.), and 160 on Freeman Lake 6 November (JBa) represented local peak counts for the season.

**Surf Scoter** – there were two reports: an imm./female on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 November (BP, MaS, et al.) and 2 imm./females there 13 November (DSt., BP, et al.).

**White-winged Scoter** – there was one report: an imm. male on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP et al.).

**Black Scoter** – there were four reports: 2 imm./females on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 November (BP, BWu); 2 imm./females at Jacobson Park 6 November (RO) with 1 still there 8 November (ph. TNa); an imm./female on Freeman Lake 12 November (BP, EH); and an imm./female above Uniontown Dam 28 November (ph. CC).

**Long-tailed Duck** – there were three reports: a male on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*, 1 November (BP, MaS); an imm./female on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP et al.); and an imm./female above Meldahl Dam 16 November (BWu).

**Bufflehead** – a female at Camp #9 on 24 October (BP, CC) was relatively early. Local peak counts included 70 total on the Ohio River at Louisville 12 November (BP et al.); at least 133 there 13 November (BP et al.); and 55 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 14 November (BL).

**Common Goldeneye** – ca. 10 were on Lower Douglas Lake, *Hardin*, by 9 November (ph. ML).

**Hooded Merganser** – peak counts included 100 at Jacobson Park 14 November (AX) with 150 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 22 November (DL, ASK) and 280 there 29 November (RO).

**Ruddy Duck** – 4 on the Flemingsburg Reservoir, *Fleming*, 12 October (BWu) and 4 on Lake Linville 23 October (RD, JS) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 25-30 at Camp #9 on 24 October (BP, CC); 60+20 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 November (EH et al.); and 82 on Freeman Lake (JBa) and 60 on Cave Run Lake (BWu), both 6 November.

**Red-throated Loon** – there was one report: 1 on Lake Cumberland above Wolf Creek Dam, *Russell*, 17 November (ph. RD).

**Common Loon** – 1 at Fishing Creek 14/23 September (RD) was likely continuing from summer; 1 on Owsley Fork Lake 11 October (RFo, RBa) was the earliest migrant to be reported; modest peak counts included 52 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 17 November (ME), at least 65 on Green River Lake, *Adair/Taylor*, 15 November (BP, MaS); and 75 on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 17 November (RD).

**Pied-billed Grebe** – local peak counts of interest included 45-50 on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP) and 54 on Lake Linville 20 November (RD).

**Horned Grebe** – 65 on the Ohio River at Louisville 12 November (BP) with 94 there 22 November (CBs) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Red-necked Grebe** – there was one report: 1 on Lake Reba, *Madison*, 14 November (†DH).

**Double-crested Cormorant** – reports of interest included 350 over Shepherdsville, *Bullitt* (MA, BBC), and ca. 900 on the Ohio River at Louisville (BP), both 11 October; and at least 2500 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 4 November (BL).

**American White Pelican** – 2 at Devils Elbow, Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 29 August (ME) may have been summering; numbers returned to Lake Barkley, *Lyon/Trigg*, by the third week of September,

with ca. 1800 at Little River 20 September (BWu, BP, TSh). Other reports of interest included 51 over the Falls of the Ohio 21 September (ph. KB) that represented a new local high count; at least 228 over the Lower Hickman Bottoms 21 September (ph. MY, BY); 125 over the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 September (CW); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 12 October (TBe et al.); 12 over the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 17 October (ph. CC); 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 10 November (KN, ph. AG); and 10 over Long Point 21 November (HC). A bird wearing a patagial tag at Little River 20 September (BWu, BP, TSh) was tagged as a nestling in *Big Stone*, Minnesota, 26 June 2010 (*fide* USGS Bird Banding Lab).

**American Bittern** – there were two reports: 1 at Putney Pond, *Jefferson*, 2 August (†TSm, †JS) and a tardy bird at Sinclair 21/28 November (ph. SG, TG).

**Least Bittern** – there was one report: 1 at Adkins Swamp 12 September (SG, TG).

**Great Blue Heron** – a bird that appeared to be a white morph was photographed at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 14 November (ph. LSt).



Great Blue Heron (white morph)  
Trigg Co., 14 November 2014  
Lisa Stinnett

**Great Egret** – local peak counts included 175 at Horseshoe Road 1 August (BP,

MM) and counts of 26 and 27 at the Falls of the Ohio 31 August (TBe et al.) and 6 October (JBa), respectively. One at Johnny Walker Stables, *Boone*, 2 November (LMcN); 1 at Lake Reba 11 November (DH); 1 at Minor Clark 22/25 November (GR/MWr, TNo et al.); and 2 at Sinclair to the end of November (ph. SG, TG) were the latest to be reported. One with a patagial tag that was present in *Fayette* during the first two weeks of October (ph. KR) had been tagged as part of a study in Ontario.

**Snowy Egret** – up to 10 were at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, during early August (BP, MM, et al.) with 17 counted there and in the vicinity 18 August (DSi).

**Little Blue Heron** – reports of interest away from the LBL region included 1 at Minor Clark 23/30 August (JS/MWr); 1 at Luzerne Lake 28 August (SG, TG); 4 at Adkins Swamp 1 September (ph. SG, TG); 2 at Fishing Creek 2 September (RD); and up to 7 at Sauerheber 6-8 September (KMi, ph. CC). One at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 11 October (JP) was the latest to be reported.

**Cattle Egret** – at least several dozen nests appeared to be active at the heronry on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, *Lyon*, 3 August (BP, MM). There was only one report away from the LBL region: 15 at Minor Clark 28 October (ph. MWr).

**Green Heron** – a tally of 56 at Minor Clark 23 August (JS) was the highest count there in a number of years; singles at Jonathan Creek 21 October (HC, AY) and at Melco 23 October (JBa, MWa) were the latest to be reported.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – there were only two reports: an ad. at Hikes Point, Louisville, during early September (ph. NS) and a juv. at Melco 25 September (ph. JBa, MWa).

***Plegadis ibis*** – 3 were at Camp #11 on 16 September (ph. EH, BP) with 1 there 24/26 October (ph. BP, CC/BP, BBC). Photos of the birds on both dates are very suggestive of White-faced but considered inconclusive.

**Roseate Spoonbill** – a juv. was present at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 3-12 August (MM, ph. BP, et al.). KBRC review required.

**Osprey** – singles at Cave Run Lake 6 November (BWu) and at Barren River Lake 10 November (LC) were the latest to be reported.

**Golden Eagle** – there were six reports: a second-year bird affixed with a satellite transmitter was detected e. of Shelbiana, *Pike*, on the incredibly early date of 26 September (*fide* SS); another satellite-transmitted bird that passed s. through the state roughly just e. of the I-75 corridor 9-10 Nov (SS); a juv. over Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 24 November (†RD); a juv. over Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 25 November (MBy); 1 was first captured on a trail-cam at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, 29 November (AB); and a juv. at Duncan Lake, LBL, *Lyon*, 30 November (ph. MCu et al.).

**Mississippi Kite** – yg. at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, fledged during the first week of August (MCo) with 2 juvs. present 15 August (MCo, ph. MF) confirming the presence of a second nest somewhere in the vicinity; 2 were last seen at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, 16 August (JBa); also of interest was 1 nw. of Powderly 28 August (TG).

**Broad-winged Hawk** – reports of interest included tallies of 920 over Surrey Hills Farm (BP) and 600 over Douglass Hills (MM), both 17 September; and 115 over Cherokee Park (JA, RL, et al.) and 2145 total over Douglass Hills (MM, MY), both 18 September.

**Virginia Rail** – there were three reports: 1 at Sauerheber 26 October (BP, BBC, ph. JS); 1 on the Morehead State University campus, *Rowan*, 7 November (ph. BWu); and 1 heard nw. of Powderly 7 November (SG, TG).

**Sora** – singles at Sauerheber 22 October (CC) and near Lawrenceburg, *Anderson*, 28 November (BWu) were the latest to be reported; the latter represented a new late departure date for the state. Also reported were 1-2 at Beckley Creek Park 24 Sep-

tember–9 October (AM, ph. PS, PB, JBe, et al.).

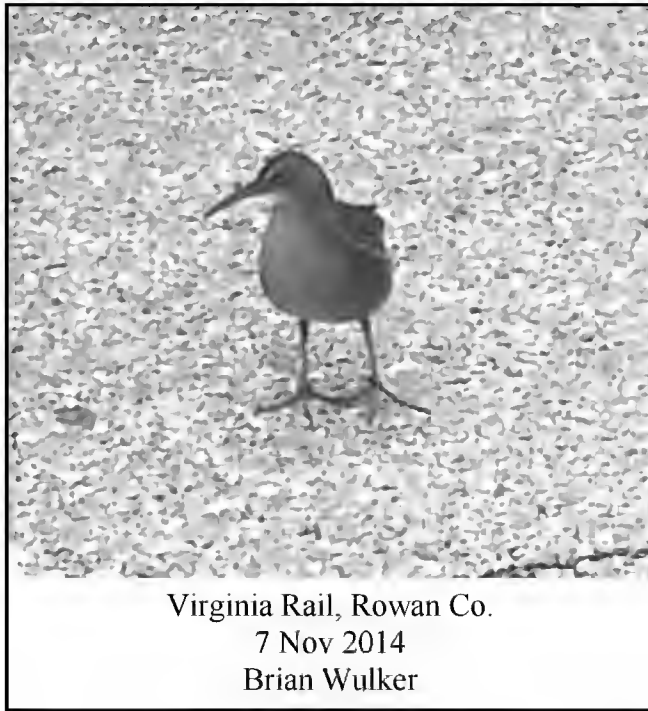
**Common Gallinule** – 1 at A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell*, 25-26 October (JW, ph. RD) was the only one reported.



Mississippi Kites (2 juvs.), Jefferson Co.  
15 August 2014  
Millie Farmer

**American Coot** – 1 at Adkins Swamp 1 September (TG, SG) likely summered; the first migrants arrived at several locations during the first week of October (m. ob.); peak counts included 2500 on Barren River Lake 29 October (MBy); 1500-2000 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5-6 November (EH et al.) with 400-450 on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP); 1000+ on Cave Run Lake 6 November (BWu); and 380/400 on Lake Reba 16/22 November (RFo, RBa).

**Sandhill Crane** – 42 over the Anchorage Trail 29 October (JBe, PB) were the earliest to be reported; daily flights occurred during cold snap of 17-20 November with 1000-1500 flying s. over Franklin Crossroads, *Hardin*, 15 November (BP, MaS) and 750-1000 over Surrey Hills Farm 20 November (BP) representing modest peak counts for the season.



**American Avocet** – there were four reports: 1 at Camp #11 on 24 August (ph. BP, ph. EH); 1 over the Ohio River at Cox's Park, Louisville, 26 August (RL); 2 at Camp #9 on 16 September (ph. EH, BP); and 3 on the Ohio River at Louisville and later at the Falls of the Ohio 5 November (ph. EH et al.).

**Black-bellied Plover** – there were reports from three locales; an ad. at Camp #11 on 10 August (BP, MaS); 1 heard at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.); 2 ads. at the Falls of the Ohio 6 September (DSt) with a juv. there on several dates 11 September–2 October (EH, DSt, et al.); and 1 at Blood River 21–26 September (HC, ME).

**American Golden-Plover** – there were reports from only three locales: 1 at Camp #9 on 24 August/3 September/18 September (BP, EH/BP/BP, GBe); 1 at Spindletop Farm 1 October (RO); and a relatively late bird at the Falls of the Ohio 5 November (EH et al.).

**Semipalmated Plover** – modest peak counts included up to 18 at Minor Clark 4 September (BWu) and 20 at Wildcat Creek 19 September (MT); 5 at Camp #11 (BP, CC) and 4 at Wildcat Creek (ME), both 1 October, were the latest to be reported.

**Killdeer** – local peak counts included 160 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 8 September (JHa), 140 at Spindletop Farm 1 October (RO), 170 at Frazer, *Wayne*, 14 October

(RD); and 166 at Jonathan Creek 6 November (HC).

**Spotted Sandpiper** – 1 at Barren River Lake 28 October (MBy) and 1 that lingered at the Falls of the Ohio to 2 November (BP, BWu) were the latest to be reported.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – tardy birds included 1 at Minor Clark 15 November (RFo, RBa, GR); 2 at Luzerne Lake 22 November with 1 still there 23 November (SG, TG); and 1 at Blood River 20/25 November (HC).

**Willet** – 1 at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.) was the only one reported.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – modest peak counts included 30 at Camp #11 on 24 August (BP, EH) with 55–60 there 30 August (BP et al.) and 40+ there 3 September (BP); 1 at Camp #11 on 24 October (BP, CC); 3 at Clear Creek and 4 at Blood River, both 29 October (HC) and 1 at Sauerheber 30 October (CC) were the latest to be reported.

**Upland Sandpiper** – there were two reports: 1 heard at Horseshoe Road 1 August (BP, MM); and 1 or 2 at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP, ph. MY, et al.).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – there were reports from only two locales: 6 at the Falls of the Ohio 31 August/2 September (TBe et al.) with 8 there 1 September (EH) and an impressive peak count of 11 there 11 September (EH), 4 still there 12 September (JBa, JS, CS), and 1 last seen there 21 September (BP, BWu, TSh); and a juv. at Camp #9 on 16–18 September (BP, EH, GBe).

**Hudsonian Godwit** – there were two reports: an ad. at Camp #11 on 30 August (ph. BP et al.) and an ad. at Minor Clark 11 September (ph. MWt). KBRC review required.

**Stilt Sandpiper** – reports of interest included 2 ads. at Camp #11 on 1 August (BP, MM) with 3 juvs. there 10 August (BP, MaS), 12+ there 30 August (BP et al.), 15 there 3 September (BP), and 10–12 there 5 September (BP et al.); 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 20 August (DSt); 4 at Minor Clark 3 September (BWu); 8 at



Camp #9 on 16 September (BP, EH) with perhaps the same 8 at Camp #11 on 18 September (BP, GBe); and 7 at Little River 20 September (BP, BWu, TSh).

**Sanderling** – there were reports from only five locales: 1 at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.); 1-3 at the Falls of the Ohio 25 August–23 September (EH et al.) with a peak of 5 there 31 August (TBe, CBe); 1 at Minor Clark 13 September (RD, BWu); 1 at Lick Creek 19 September (BP, BWu, TSh); 1 at Jonathan Creek 21 September (HC, KOS); and 1 at Camp #9 on 1 October (BP, CC).

**Dunlin** – 1 at Camp #9 and 4 at Camp #11, both 24 October (BP, CC) were the earliest to be reported; very modest peak counts included 28 at Blood River 28 October (HC) and 14 at Clear Creek 29 October (HC); other reports of interest included 1 at Dranes Lakes, *Hardin*, 1 November (BP, MaS) and 2 at the Van Buren ramp, Taylorsville Lake, *Anderson*, 13 November (EH).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – there were reports of 1-3 birds at six locales: 1 at Camp #11 during 30 August–3 September (BP et al.); 1 at Camp #9 on several dates 3 September–1 October (BP, CC, et al.) with 2-3 there 18 September (BP, GBe); 1 at Fishing Creek 2 September (RD); 2 at Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 5 September (HC); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 7 September (TBe, CBe); and 2 at Eddy Creek 19 September (BP, BWu, TSh) with 1 there 20 September (JS).

**Least Sandpiper** – peak counts included 55 at Camp #9 and 130 at Camp #11, both 3 September (BP) with 50 and 100 at the respective locales 5 September (BP et al.); 50 still at Camp #11 on 1 October (BP, CC); and 100 still at Jonathan Creek 25 November (ME).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – there were reports from four locales: 1 at Minor Clark 13-14 September (BWu, RD, GW); an ad. at Camp #9 on 18 September (BP, ph. GBe); 2 at Wildcat Creek 18/19 September (HC/MT); and 4 at Camp #11 on 1 October (BP, CC).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Camp #9 on 24 August/5 September (BP, EH/BP et al.) with 2 there 16 September (BP, EH); 3 at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.) with 2 there 5 September (BP et al.); 1 at Minor Clark 30 August/3 September (BWu/MWr) with 2 there 8 September (RD); and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 7 September (TBe, CBe).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – the latest reports included 2 still at Sauerheber 26 October (BP, BBC); 1 that lingered at Melco to 9 November (JBa); and 2 at Jonathan Creek 6 November (HC) with 1 last seen there 25 November (ME).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – modest peak counts included 45 at Camp #9 on 3 September (BP); up to 16 at Minor Clark 13 September (BWu); and 29 at Blood River 18 September (HC). Singles at Camp #11 on 1 October (BP, CC) and at Clear Creek 24 October (†HC) were the latest to be reported.

**Western Sandpiper** – there were reports from four locales: a juv. at Camp #9 on 3/5 September (BP/BP, EH, MY); 2 at Minor Clark 7 September (BWu) with 1 continuing there to 22 September (BWu, VS); 2 at Fox Chase Pond, near Frazer, *Wayne*, 10 September (RD); and 1 at Camp #11 on 1 October (BP, CC).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – reports of interest included 2 at Camp #9 on 24 August (BP, EH); 6 at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.) with 7 there 3 September (BP) and 6 there 5 September (BP et al.); 1 at Blood River 2/18 September (HC); and 1 at Minor Clark 6 September (DL, ASK).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – a juv. at Camp #11 on 24 October (BP, CC) was the only one reported.

**American Woodcock** – a few were heard during No. Saw-whet Owl banding at Surrey Hills Farm during late October-early November (MM, BP, et al.).

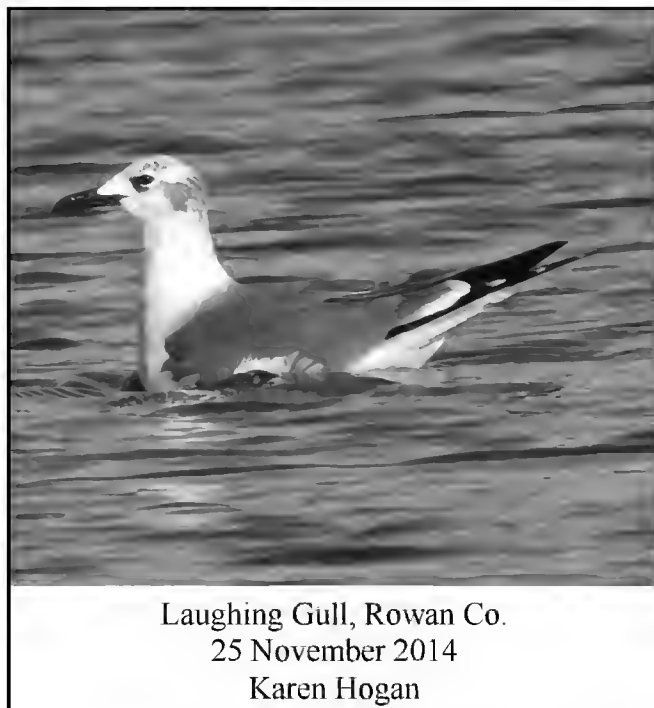
**Wilson's Phalarope** – there were three reports: 1 at Minor Clark 8 August (MWr); and 1 at Camp #9 and 2 at Camp #11, both 3 September (BP).



**Sabine's Gull** – a juv. was found on Ky Lake within a half-mile se. of the mouth of Little Bear Creek embayment, *Marshall* 20 September (†BP, KOS). KBRC review required.

**Bonaparte's Gull** – 1 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 16 September (AM) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 2 at Camp #9 on 24 October (BP, CC); 25 on the Ohio River at Louisville 13 November (BP); 16 on Freeman Lake and 125-150 on Green River Lake, *Adair/Taylor*, both 15 November (BP, MaS); and 276 at Jonathan Creek 15 November (HC).

**Laughing Gull** – there were two reports: a juv. at Jonathan Creek 20 September (BP, KOS) and an ad. at Minor Clark 25 November (TNo, ph. KHo, MH) that represented a local first.



Laughing Gull, Rowan Co.  
25 November 2014  
Karen Hogan

**Franklin's Gull** – there were reports from five locales: an impressive total of at least 154 at Jonathan Creek & Clear Creek 21 September (HC, KOS); 1 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 4 October (BL); at least 100 at Barren River Lake 28 October (MBy) with 2 still there 29-30 October (MBy); 3 on the Ohio River upstream from Meldahl Dam 5 November (BWu); and 10 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 November (EH) with 3 there 12 November (BJ, RFa, BP, MA, et al.) and 2 there 13 November (BP et al.).

**Herring Gull** – at least 30 were at Ky Dam by 20 September (BP, KOS).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – a first-year bird at Minor Clark 11-14 September (ph. RD, ph. BWu, et al.) was a local first; also reported were an ad. at Lick Creek 19 September (BP, BWu, TSh); a juv. at Barkley Dam 19 September (BWu, BP, TSh); and an ad. at Devils Elbow, Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 21 September (ph. RD).

**Caspian Tern** – very modest peak counts included 8 at Camp #11 on 1 August (BP, MM) with 10 there 10 August (BP, MaS); 28 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 18 August (DSi); 13 at the Falls of the Ohio 7 September (TBe, CBe); and 25 at Wildcat Creek 18 September (HC).

**Black Tern** – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Camp #11 on 10 August (BP, MaS) with 14 there 30 August (BP et al.) and 6 there 3/5 September (BP/BP, EH, MY, SG, TG); 1 at Adkins Swamp 1 September (TG, SG); 27 at Minor Clark 3 September (BWu) with 17 still there 6 September (DL, ASK) and 1 last seen there 18 September (VS); 1 at Jonathan Creek 12 September (HC); and 1 at Clear Creek 21 September (HC, KOS).

**Least Tern** – at least 6 ads., 2 juvs., and a chick were present at Camp #9 on 1 August (ph. BP, MM) with 3 ads. and a chick still present 10 August (BP, MaS); also of interest were an ad. at Horseshoe Road, 2 ads. on the Ohio River off Horseshoe Road, *Henderson*, and an ad. at Camp #11, all 10 August (BP, MaS). A conservative count of at least 1000 at Watson Point sandbar on the Mississippi River, *Fulton*, 14 August (JBr) likely represented a collection of ads. and juvs. from nearby nesting during the season.

**Forster's Tern** – 84 at Jonathan Creek 20 September (BP, KOS) and 80 at Sledd Creek 21 October (HC) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Barn Owl** – 1 at Sullivan WMA, *Franklin*, 19 October (JS) was the only one reported.

**Short-eared Owl** – there were two reports: 1 flushed from a field on Boatwright



Lesser Black-backed Gull (juv.), Rowan Co.  
13 September 2014  
Brian Wulker

WMA, *Ballard*, 13 November (GBu) and 1 at Sinclair 28/30 November (P&SF/TG, SG).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl** – it was another below-average year for the species with only 9 new birds banded at Surrey Hills Farm 29 October–1 November (MM et al.) with a few additional birds (including a tooting male) heard during the first week of November.

**Chimney Swift** – 1300 were tallied going to roost in two chimneys at Lexington 13 September (TBr, CKAS, ASK).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – unusual for recent years was the fact that there were very few individuals still lingering by the end of the second week of October; the latest lingered in *Hart* to 19 October (MiS), n. of Glasgow to 21 October (LC), and sw. of Haywood, *Barren*, to 24 October (R&LY).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – there was only one report: an ad. female s. of Paynes Depot,

*Scott*, from sometime in October into December (banded 22 November) (C&JA, ba. BP). Also, an imm. male Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird was present in nw. *Spencer*, mid-October–18 November (ph. LMcC).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – 1 at Bowling Green, *Warren*, 2 September (†TD) represented a new early arrival date for the state by ten days.

**Merlin** – there were at least 11 reports: an early bird at Minor Clark 6 September (DL, ph. TNa, ASK) with perhaps the same bird lingering there to 14 September (BWu, GW); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 12 September (JBe, PB, et al.); 2 over Surrey Hills Farm 17 September (BP) with 1 there 12 October (BP, MM); 1 over Douglass Hills 18 September (MM, ph. MY); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 3 October (MBy); singles at Schochoh, *Logan*, 5/19 October & 2 November (ST); 1 at Shaker Village 18 October (CTa, RT); 1 along Lower River

Road, *Boone*, 11 November (LMcN); and 1 at Cox's Park, Louisville, 29 November (MA).

**Peregrine Falcon** – reports away from known nesting territories included singles at Barkley Dam (JP) and at Lexington (RO), both 30 August, with the same or other individuals seen at Lexington a few more times during the season (m. ob.); 1 at Jonathan Creek 12 September (HC); 1 at Owensboro, *Daviess*, 20-23 September (KHa); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 22 September (MBy); 1 at Eastpark Industrial Park, *Boyd/Greenup*, 4 October (CTh); 1 at the Cedar Grove Industrial Park, *Bullitt*, 11 October (MA, BBC); 1 over Schochoh, *Logan*, 12 October (ST); 1 at the Big South Fork Recreation Area, *McCreary*, 14 October (PZ); 1 at Spindletop Farm, 11 November (CTr, GT); and 1 at the US 68 bridge over Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 15 November (BL), where an individual has overwintered in previous years.

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were four reports: 2 on the Anchorage Trail 31 August (PB, JBe); 1 along Whitaker Cemetery Road, *Pulaski*, 11 September (RD, SBC); 1 at Beckley Creek Park 20 September (AM); and 1 at Blackacre SNP, *Jefferson*, 27 September (MA, BBC).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 24 August (MBy); singles nw. of Powderly 28 August/16 September (TG, SG); singles on the Anchorage Trail on a few dates 31 August–13 September (JBe, PB, et al.); 1 at J.J. Audubon SP 14 September (KMi); and 1 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 17 September (RD).

**Least Flycatcher** – 1 was on the Anchorage Trail by 11 August (JBe, PB) with 4 there 23 August (JBe, PB).

**Willow Flycatcher** – 1 was still singing at Camp #11 on 1 August (BP); 1 was identified by sight only along Straightline Road, *Henderson*, 10 August (BP, MaS).

**Say's Phoebe** – 1 was seen along State Line Road, ca. 0.25 mi from the jct. of Bandy and Akerson Rds., e. *Allen*, 20 October (†MBy). KBRC review required.

**Eastern Kingbird** – 1 at Melco 25 September (JBa, MWa) was the latest to be reported.

**Common Raven** – the only report was for 1 at Dewey Lake WMA, *Pike*, 25 November (SF).

**White-eyed Vireo** – 1 at Berea 18 October (RFo, RBa) and a very tardy bird on the Anchorage Trail 26 November (PB, JBe) were the latest to be reported.

**Bell's Vireo** – reports of interest included 3 at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 13 August (CC); 6 at Sandy Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 13 August (CC) with 2 last seen there 9 September (CC); and 6 at Sinclair 18 August (TG, SG) with 1 last seen there 25 September (TG, SG).

**Blue-headed Vireo** – singles at Doe Run Lake Park, *Kenton*, 9 November (JW) and at the Lexington Cemetery 14 November (BWu) were the latest to be reported.

**Philadelphia Vireo** – reports of interest included 5 on the Anchorage Trail 24 September (JBe, PB) and 1 last seen at Cherokee Park 9 October (JBa, RL, MR).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – ca. 1250 were at Long Point 13 August (JKn).

**Purple Martin** – ca. 15,000 were present at the Lexington roost 9 August (JBr); 10,000-15,000 were seen going to roost in the floodplain of Flat Creek just sw. of the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, 4 August (TG, SG); 1 over Shaker Village 14 September (DL, ASK) was the latest to be reported other than a remarkable and unprecedented report of 195 still at a roost site at Lexington 28 September (†/ph. BY, ph. MY), and 2 particularly tardy birds studied closely over Schochoh, *Logan*, 11 October (†ST).

**Tree Swallow** – ca. 500+ were at both Camp #9 and Camp #11 (perhaps some repeats) on 24 October (BP, CC); 1 at Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 8 November (RD) was the latest to be reported.

**Bank Swallow** – 100-150 were at Horseshoe Road 1 August (BP, MM).

**Cliff Swallow** – reports of interest included ca. 150 at the Falls of the Ohio 4 August

(EH) and 50+ at Camp #11 on 30 August (BP et al.); 7 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 29 September (CW) were the latest to be reported.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – there was only one report: 1 heard at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 23 October (MY).

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** – at least 2 remained at the 2013 nesting location at Ky Dam Village through the season (m. ob.).

**Brown Creeper** – 1 with a mixed passerine flock at Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 2 August (MM, BP) was certainly a local breeder.

**Sedge Wren** – there were three reports: 2-3 at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 3 August–21 October (BP, MM, BL); 1 at Sauerheber 19 September (KMi); and 1 at Beckley Creek Park 16 October (ph. BP, JS).

**Marsh Wren** – there were more than a dozen reports, all being included: 1 n. of Dot, *Logan*, 20/23 September & 1 October (ph. FL); 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 22 September (BP) with 1 there 19 October (BP); singles nw. of Powderly 24 September/8 October (TG, SG); 1 at Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site, *Boyle*, 29 September (RD, PG); 1 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 30 September (JBa); 1-2 at Beckley Creek Park 1-21 October (m. ob.) with peak of 3 there 16 October (BP, JS); 1 at McNeely Lake Park, *Jefferson*, 5 October (MA); 1 at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette*, 8 October (AX); 1 at A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell*, 11 October (JW); singles at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 11/18 October (BL) & 29 October (RFa); 1 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 16 October (RD); and 1 at Sauerheber 29 October (CC).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 15 October (BL) was the latest to be reported.

**Swainson's Thrush** – 2 along Panther Creek, *Calloway*, 24 October (HC) were the latest to be reported.

**Hermit Thrush** – 1 at Blackacre SNP, *Jefferson*, 27 September (†MA, BBC) was the earliest to be reported.

**Gray-cheeked Thrush** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 30 August (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.

**Veery** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 30 August (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.

**Wood Thrush** – a recently fledged juv. was seen on the Anchorage Trail on the relatively late date of 7 September (JBe, PB).

**American Pipit** – 2 at Minor Clark 20 September (CTh) were the earliest to be reported; 100 at Spindletop Farm 20 November (AX) represented the peak count for the season.

**Lapland Longspur** – the cold snap of mid-November resulted in a few being reported at mostly traditional locales.

**Snow Bunting** – 1 at Camp #9 on 24 October (†BP, CC) was exceptionally early.

**Ovenbird** – singles at Cherokee Park 16 October (RL) and Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 18 October (LMcN) were the latest to be reported.

**Northern Waterthrush** – 1 at Cherokee Park 12 October (RL) was the latest to be reported.

**Golden-winged Warbler** – not as numerous this fall with 1-2 reported at nearly 20 locales 6 September–1 October (eBird data); the exception was 1-5 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 4-25 September with a peak count of 10 there 20 September (MBy).

**Brewster's Warbler** – a male was reported nw. of Powderly 16 September (†AM).

**Black-and-white Warbler** – singles at Greenville 16 October (TG) and at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 19 October (AM) were the latest to be reported.

**Tennessee Warbler** – a relatively tardy bird at the Lexington Cemetery 14 November (BWu) was the latest to be reported.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – it was a relatively good season for the species with 1-2 reported at more than 20 locales 3 October–4 November (eBird data).

**Nashville Warbler** – 1 on the Anchorage Trail 31 August (JS) was the earliest to be reported; 1 at Greenville 12 November (ph. SG, TG) was relatively late.



**Mourning Warbler** – there were ten reports: 1 banded at Shaker Village 6 August (ba./ph. KHe) represented a new early arrival date for the state by more than two weeks; 1 at Cove Spring Park, *Franklin*, 24 August (RC); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 27 August (MBy) with 2 there 31 August (MBy); singles on the Anchorage Trail 30 August/8 September (JBe, PB); singles at Berea (RFo, RBa) and along Rock Lick Creek Road, w. of Science Hill, *Pulaski* (RD), both 12 September; 1 at Louisville 13 September (SW, MK), and 1 at J.J. Audubon SP 21 September (KMi).

**Common Yellowthroat** – singles at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 24 October (KMi) and at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 25 October (RD) were the latest to be reported.

**Connecticut Warbler** – 1 was at Schochoh, *Logan*, 17 September (†ST).

**Hooded Warbler** – 1 at Monticello, *Wayne*, 14 October (RD) was the latest to be reported.

**Cape May Warbler** – 1 at the Cumberland Hill House, Lexington, 23 October (SR) was the latest to be reported.

**Cerulean Warbler** – there were two reports of migrants: 1 ne. of Lyndon, *Jefferson*, 10 August (JBe PB) and 1 at Pope Lick Park 24 August (JBe, PB).

**Northern Parula** – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 15 October (BL) was the latest to be reported.

**Magnolia Warbler** – 1 at Garvin Brown Preserve, *Jefferson*, 19 October (BWo, BBC) was the latest to be reported.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – 1 at the Big South Fork Recreation Area, *McCreary*, 19 October (RD) was the latest to be reported.

**Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 6 August (RD) represented a new early arrival date for a fall bird away from breeding areas; next earliest was 1 on the Anchorage Trail 21 August (JBe, PB). One at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 18 October (LMcN) was the latest to be reported.

**Yellow Warbler** – singles at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 23 September (RD); at Russellville, *Logan*, 29 September (†JHa); n. of Dot, *Logan*, 29 September (ph. FL); and at Camp #11 on 1 October (CC, †BP) were the latest to be reported.

**Blackpoll Warbler** – there was one report: 2 at Beckley Creek Park 25 September (PB, JBe).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – there were three reports: 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 18 September (RO); singles at A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell*, 27 September/11 October (JW); and a male near Fisherville, *Jefferson*, 18 October (EH, JHu).

**Palm Warbler** – 2 were still at Barren River Lake SRP, *Barren*, 22 November (LC).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler** – 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 22 September (BP) was the earliest to be reported.

**Yellow-throated Warbler** – 1 at Perryville Battlefield State Historical Site, *Boyle*, 15 October (RD) was the latest to be reported.

**Black-throated Green Warbler** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 17 August (RD) was the earliest to be reported; singles at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 25 October (SW) and at J. J. Audubon SP 26 October (KMi) were the latest to be reported.

**Canada Warbler** – singles at Lexington 15 August (CTr) and at Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 August (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.

**Wilson's Warbler** – 1 n. of Glasgow 15 October (LC) was the latest to be reported.

**Yellow-breasted Chat** – 1 at the Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 27 September (RD) was the latest to be reported.

**Lark Sparrow** – 3 were still present along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 10 August (BP, MaS). A presumed migrant at LBL, *Trigg*, 2 September (†BL) was exceptional.

**Vesper Sparrow** – there were several reports of 1-2 birds at nearly ten locales 1 October–3 November (eBird data).



**Grasshopper Sparrow** – singles at Surrey Hills Farm 22 September (BP); at Spindletop Farm 30 September (ph. AM) and n. of Dot, *Logan*, 24 October/26 November (ph. FL) were the latest to be reported; the last represented a new late departure date for the state (other than a few winter records).

**Henslow's Sparrow** – 1 was heard singing and seen at the LBL Elk-Bison Prairie, *Trigg*, 2 August (BP, MM); 1 was at Morgan Conservation Park, *Oldham*, 25 October (ph. BD).

**Le Conte's Sparrow** – there was only one report: at least 1 at Sauerheber 26 October (BP, BBC).

**Fox Sparrow** – 1 at Sauerheber 16 October (CC) was the earliest to be reported.

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – singles at Spindletop Farm 29 October (RO) and at Melco 9 November (JBa, MWa) were the latest to be reported.

**Summer Tanager** – singles at Greenville to 16 October (TG) and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 17 October (RD) were the latest to be reported.

**Scarlet Tanager** – singles at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 16 October (RD) and at Berea 18 October (RFo, RBa) were the latest to be reported.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – a group of 6 along Garrison Creek Road, *Boone*, 30 August (LMcN) may have consisted of local breeders/juvs.; 1 at Louisville 18 October (JG) was the latest to be reported.

**Blue Grosbeak** – singles at Greenville 16 October (TG) and at Beckley Creek Park 18 October (ph. BP, MaS) were the latest to be reported.

**Indigo Bunting** – singles at LBL, *Lyon*, 27 October (BL), and on the Anchorage Trail (JBe, PB) and at Wildcat Creek (HC), both 29 October, were the latest to be reported other than a very tardy bird n. of Dot, *Logan*, 20 November (FL).

**Dickcissel** – 1 at Sauerheber 8 October (CC) and an especially tardy bird n. of Dot, *Logan*, 26 November (ph. FL) were the latest to be reported.

**Bobolink** – reports of interest included an especially large flock of ca. 60 (possibly consisting of or including local breeders) at Spindletop Farm 13 September (DL); single birds at Beckley Creek Park 28 September (PB, JBe), 1 October (PB, JBe, CBs), 8 October (RL, RBo), and 18 October (ph. BD, BP, et al.); 3 at Surrey Hills Farm 30 September (BP); 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 4 October (RD); and 1 at McNeely Lake Park, *Jefferson*, 5 October (MA).

**Western Meadowlark** – there was one report: 1 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 21 November (HC).

**Rusty Blackbird** – 1 over Surrey Hills Farm 25 October (BP) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included small numbers at Spindletop Farm beginning 4 November (RO) with a peak count of 70 there 21 November (RO); up to 16 at feeding station at Surrey Hills Farm 17-20 November (BP) with a peak count of 83 at that locale 22 November (BP); and 42 at Murray, *Calloway*, 23 November (HC).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – there was one report: 2 females at Camp #11 on 24 October (BP, CC).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** – a male was seen with a flock of mostly Common Grackles near Bagdad, *Shelby*, 25 September (†RH). KBRC review required.

**Brown-headed Cowbird** – a juv. was seen following a pair of House Finches at Schochoh, *Logan*, on the extremely late date of 6 September (ST), indicating both very tardy egg-laying by the female cowbird and nesting by the finches.

**Purple Finch** – singles heard over Surrey Hills Farm 19/23 October (BP) and at least 3 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 23 October (MY) were the earliest to be reported.

**American Goldfinch** – 150-200 at Surrey Hills Farm during mid-October (BP) and 250 at Spindletop Farm 15 November (MCa, BBC) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Pine Siskin** – 13 at Surrey Hills Farm 8 October (BP) were the earliest to be reported; generally small numbers continued to be reported into and through November, mostly across central Kentucky; western-most reports came from *Henderson* (BP, BBC), *Logan* (FL), and *Marshall* (DSi) and there was only one report from all of eastern Kentucky: 1 at Ashland, *Boyd*, 9 November (CTh).

#### Addenda to the Winter 2013-2014 Report:

**Rough-legged Hawk** – 2 on the Elkton, *Todd*, CBC 21 Dec 2013 (*fide* AT).

**Barn Owl** – 3 on the Elkton, *Todd*, CBC 21 Dec 2013 (*fide* AT).

**House Wren** – 1 on the Elkton, *Todd*, CBC 21 Dec 2013 (*fide* AT).

**Lincoln's Sparrow** – 1 on the Elkton, *Todd*, CBC 21 Dec 2013 (*fide* AT).

#### Addendum to the Fall 2013 Report:

**Rufous Hummingbird** – an ad. male was present at Greenville for ca. a week during mid-August 2013 (ph. D&DV).

#### Addendum to the Spring 2014 Report:

**American White Pelican** – 3 were present at Craig's Creek, *Gallatin*, 24 March (ph. Kelley Warnick; *Gallatin County News*).

**Observers:** Curtis & Jennie Adams (C&JA), Jim Arnett (JA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Giff Beaton (GBa), Andrew Berry (AB), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TBe), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CBs), Karen Bonsell (KB), Rod Botkins (RBo), John Brunjes (JBr), Tony Brusate (TBr), Gerald Burnett (GBu), Michael Callan (MCa), Beverly Carrico (BC), Central Kentucky Audubon Society (CKAS), Hap Chambers (HC), Ron Cicerello (RC), Marge Constan (MCo), Linda Craiger (LC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Mel Cunningham (MCu), Brian Davis (BD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Rand Falls (RFa), Millie Farmer (MF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Rob Foster (RFo), Scott Freidhof (SF), Judy Galitzine (JG), Alan Goldstein (AG), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Joe Hall (JHa), Kate Hannah (KHa), Drew Harvey (DH), Kate Heyden (KHe), Rick Hill (RH), Karen Hogan (KHo), Mark Hogan (MH), Eddie Huber (EH), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Brian Johnson (BJ), Meghan Kahn (MK), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), James Kiser (JKi), Joseph Knoll (JKn), Rob Lane (RL), David Lang (DL), Marjorie Lehman (ML), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Frank Lyne (FL), Kathy McClain (KMc), Leah McCune (LMcC), Lee McNeely (LMcN), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JM), Keith Michalski (KMi), Mark Monroe (MM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TNa), Kathleen Nielsen (KN), Teresa Noel (TNo), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Joshua Powell (JP), Spencer Reinhard (SR), Mike Riggs (MR), Gerald Robe (GR), Kent Robinson (KR), Vicki Sandage (VS), Tanner Shepard (TSh), Damien Simbeck (DSi), Tim Smith (TSm), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JS), Somerset Bird Club (SBC), Scott Somershoe (SS), Pam Spaulding (PS), Lee Sterrenburg (LSg), Matt Stickel (MaS), Lisa Stinnett (LSt), Del Striegel (DSt), Mitch Sturgeon (MiS), Nick Sweeney (NS), Chris Taylor (CTa), Richard Taylor (RT), Charles Thompson (CTh), Melanie Torres (MT), Charles Tremoulet (CTr), Gretchen Tremoulet (GT), Alan Troyer (AT), Steve Tyson (ST), Debra & Dicky Vincent (D&DV), Major Waltman (MWa), Sean Ward (SW), James Wheat (JW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Chris Wood (CW), Mike Wright (MWr), Brian Wulker (BWu), Gale Wulker (GW), Antonio Xeira (AX), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Ruth & Lew Young (R&LY), Phil Ziegler (PZ).

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 2014-2015

Blaine R. Ferrell

Reports of 31 counts were received from across the Commonwealth. A total of 134 species was recorded on count days, with no additional species added by observations during count weeks. Twenty-one species were observed on all counts and 18 species were observed on only one count.

Temperatures during the count period were fairly normal and consistent, ranging from a low of 19°F at Shelbyville (21 December) and Sorgho (1 January) to a high of 60°F at Western Allen County (3 January). The average low temperature was 32°F and the average high temperature was 45°F, however no counts were conducted 22-26 December. Waterfowl numbers were quite variable. The number of Snow Geese was down, whereas the number of Mallards was up significantly. Other waterfowl numbers appeared to be consistent with previous years. Wild Turkey numbers were off. Double-crested Cormorants were more numerous, and Black Vultures were up significantly in number, as were American Coots. Gull numbers seemed to be normal. The number of Red-breasted Nuthatches was down, as the species was found on only three counts (down from 12 counts last year). Due to varying weather conditions and food availability from year to year, it is difficult to determine trends in numbers and species. Interesting observations this year included Ross's Goose (1, Elkton), Surf Scoter (2, Green River Lake; 1 Somerset), Black Scoter (1, Louisville), Eared Grebe (1, Green River Lake), Red-necked Grebe (1, Land Between the Lakes), Great Egret (1, Ballard County), Black-crowned Night-Heron (1, Louisville), Osprey (1, Richmond), Virginia Rail (3, Paradise), Great Black-backed Gull (1, Land Between the Lakes), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3, Land Between the Lakes), Barn Owl (1, Elkton), Short-eared Owl (3, Paradise), House Wren (1, Louisville), Marsh Wren (1, Paradise), Gray Catbird (1, Green River Lake; 2, Lexington), Palm Warbler (2, Elkton; 1, Paradise), Black-and-white Warbler (1, Lexington), Common Yellowthroat (1, Otter Creek Park), and Le Conte's Sparrow (2, Paradise).

Thanks to the many observers and who participated in this year's counts and compilers who submitted count results on the appropriate forms. Also, thanks to compilers who submitted documentation for unusual species to the editor and to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. Records of species unusual for the count do not constitute official records until reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.

**Ballard County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at jct. 358 and Stove Corner Road; 37.1228°, -088.9518°). Habitat as described in 1984. Dec 16; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky mostly cloudy. Temp. 35-50°F; wind W, 5-10 m.p.h. Water open.

Seven observers in one to five parties. Total party hours 21.0 (11.5 on foot, 9.5 by car). Total party miles 99.0 (2.5 on foot, 96.5 by car). Hours owling, 2.0. Total species 86; total individuals 24,198.

Observers: John Brunjes, Gerald Burnett, Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, Eddie Huber, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and Scott Record.

Comments: The species total (86) was below average for this count. Numbers of geese were low, and only 16 species of waterfowl were detected. Highlights included a tardy Great Egret, an adult Golden Eagle, 3 American Woodcocks, a flock of American Pipits, and at least 150 Lapland Longspurs. Red-headed Woodpeckers were present in good numbers in the bottomland forests, but again this year we did not spend much time in that habitat. We missed several uncommon species that we often see including Le Conte's Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird. Natural food supplies did not appear to be very abundant.

**Calloway County** (all points within a 7.5 mile radius circle, center Douglas Cemetery; 36.5984°, -088.1958°). Habitat: 20% lake shoreline and streams, 35% open fields, 30% residential, and 15% deciduous and pine woods. Jan 4; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. CST. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 32-46°F; wind NW, 5-20 m.p.h.

Ten observers in five parties. Total party-hours 39 (12 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 130.5 (7.0 on foot, 123.5 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 8363.

Observers: Hap Chambers (compiler), Kathy Cohen, Mike Cohen, Melissa Easley, Blue Eubanks, Bob Head, Mike Miller, Donna Rodeghiero, Darrin Samborski, and Aviva Yasgur.

**Land Between the Lakes** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Pisgah Creek, one-quarter mile w. of The Trace – 36.9333°, -088.1167°; also extended to include Jonathan Creek embayment). Habitat as described in 1984 in *American Birds*. Dec. 15; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST. Sky 100% overcast, with heavy fog over the lakes, and a fine mist from time to time in the morning; temp. 43-50°F; wind, SSE 0-7 m.p.h.

Twenty five observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 55.25 (20.00 on foot, 35.25 by car). Total party-miles 379.55 (9.75 on foot, 369.80 by car). Total species 96; total individuals 14,563.

Observers: Dan Allison, Walt Blackburn, Stan Brockway, Kendra Burns, Hap Chambers, J. David Chiles, Melodie Cunningham, Melissa Easley, Blue Eubanks, Bruce Eubanks, Teresa Gemeinhardt, Brook Gilley, Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, Joseph Hall, Chris Holt, Bill Lisowsky, Paula Lisowsky, Monica Main, Sarah Moy, John Pollpeter, Darrin Samborski, Kelly Sellers, Micah Slifer, and Aviva Yasgur (compiler).

Comments: This year, we were pleasantly surprised to have very mild and pleasant weather for the bird count! The mild temperatures and low winds made it very enjoyable to be out and about. The biggest challenge was the heavy fog that hung over the lakes for most of the day. There were a lot of waterfowl that we were unable to identify because we couldn't make out any details through all the mist. Despite the fog, though, we still tallied 96 birds for the day, as well as two additional species seen during count week. The two most unusual birds seen this year were a Great Black-backed Gull seen at Kentucky Dam, and a Red-necked Grebe seen in Cravens Bay (on Lake Barkley). Some of the birds seen in higher than usual numbers were Greater White-fronted Goose, Pied-billed Grebe, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Wilson's Snipe. Most of the Black Vultures (almost 175 of them) were seen roosting together at Barkley Dam. Field Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks were the main species with low numbers this year. In addition, we didn't observe any Northern Shovelers or Green-winged Teal, which are species that are fairly common in most years. Thanks to all of the participants who helped count this year!

**Sorgho** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Hwy. 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection; 37.76297°, -087.23086°). Habitat farmland, river, creeks, river bottoms, urban parks and county parks. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST. Sky a mix of sun and clouds; temp. 19-35°F; wind SW 5-10 m.p.h.

Fifteen observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 36 (5 on foot, 31 by car). Total party-miles 308.0 (5.5 on foot, 302.5 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 23,114.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Mike Brown, Henry Conner, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Neal Hayden, Vickie Hunter, Janet Howard (compiler), Jim Kimsey, Pam Kimsey, Mary Kissel, Madeline Oetinger, Francis Tichner, Lynn Tichner, and Carolyn Williams.

**Elkton** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center just north of jct. Ky 102 (Allensville Road) and Gardner Road; 36.7605°, -087.10106°). Habitat: 73% agricultural fields, woodland 15%, brushy fencerows 8%, rural areas 2%, small ponds and streams 2%. Dec. 31; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 22-36°F; wind mostly calm. Water open.

Twelve observers in three parties. Total party hours 32 (10.5 on foot, 21.5). Total party miles 218 (18 on foot, 200 by car). Hours owling 1.5. Total species 78; 154,528 individuals.

Observers: Chad Beachy, Elsie Beachy, John Beachy, Jesse Kanagy, Leo Shrock, Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer (compiler), David Troyer, Leona Troyer, Maria Troyer, Clayton Whetstone, and Lori Whetstone.



**Paradise** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in s. Ohio County; 37.27755°, -086.95868°). Habitat as described in 1993. Jan 1; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky mostly cloudy. Temp. 25-40°F; wind SW, 5-10 m.p.h. Water mostly open.

Five observers in three parties. Total party hours 24.25 (13.50 on foot, 10.75 by car). Total party miles 85 (3 on foot, 82 by car). Hours owling: 3.5. Total species 92; total individuals 7343.

Observers: Steve Graham, Teresa Graham, Eddie Huber, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and Matt Stickel.

Comments: Cloudy, breezy conditions hampered efforts to detect birds, especially during the afternoon. The species total (92) was slightly above average for this count during recent years, mostly due to the compilation of 16 species of waterfowl. Highlights included five Greater White-fronted Geese, four Virginia Rails, a Bonaparte's Gull, three Short-eared Owls, four Merlins, a Loggerhead Shrike, a Marsh Wren, a Palm Warbler, two Le Conte's Sparrows, and seven Pine Siskins. Raptor numbers were back to below average for recent years after being higher last year; one of the Red-tailed Hawks was an adult darkish morph individual. Only one Red-breasted Nuthatch could be found; this count often tallies more than any other in the state. Blackbirds were also scarce this year, with Brown-headed Cowbird missed. Other significant misses included Rough-legged Hawk, Horned Lark and Winter Wren.

**Bowling Green** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green; -36.9159°, -086.4359°). Habitat: deciduous woods 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 14; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky overcast; temp. 46-54°F; wind calm.

Four observers in three parties. Total party-hours 20 (4 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 96 (7 on foot, 89 by car). Total species 67; total individuals 14,160.

Observers: Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, Albert Meier, and David Roemer.

[*Editor's note:* A Western Meadowlark was submitted with this count, but no details accompanied the report, so it is not included in either the species total or the summary table].

**Western Allen County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center one-half mile west of jct. KY 2136 (Towe Road) and Shores Road; 36.71278°, -086.3469°). Habitat as described in 2012. Jan. 3; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST. Sky overcast; temp. 48-60°F; wind S 1-25 m.p.h, gusts. Some showers occurred throughout the day, no heavy rain.

Forty-two observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours 81.00 (46.15 on foot, 29.00 by buggy, 1.45 by boat, with 4 feeder watching). Total party-miles 114 (30 on foot, 83 by buggy, 1 by boat). Total species 75, total individuals 18,428.

Observers: Matthan Beachy, Alvin Brubaker, Amanda Brubaker, Floyd Brubaker, John David Brubaker (co-compiler), Lavern Brubaker, Lewis Brubaker, Manassah Brubaker, Matthan Brubaker, Matthew Brubaker, Roman Burbaker, Timothy Brubaker (co-compiler), Andrew Gingerich, Herman Gingerich, Mahlon Gingerich, Wilbur Gingerich, Noah Glick, Ervin Hoover, Ethan Hoover, Jamin Hoover, Joseph Hoover, Justin Hoover, Matthew Hoover, Noah Hoover, Philemon Hoover, Joanne Habegger, Rosalyn Habegger, Roseana Habegger, Sharon Habegger, Mahlon Habegger, Philip Habegger, Samuel Habegger, Allen Shirk, Alta Shirk, Elvin Shirk, Allen Weaver, Ida Weaver, Karl Weaver, Mose Weaver, Paul Weaver, and Vera Weaver.

Comments: Nothing very rare was observed. The Greater White-fronted Goose and Snow Goose (a blue morph) were great birds for our count. We missed seeing a Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, and Lapland Longspur. Turn out was good, even though the date didn't suit some of the regular participants. Overall it was a great count.

(continued on page 28)



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Shelbyville	Hart County	Nolin River	Green River Lake	Frankfort	Kleber WMA	Danville	Lexington	Burlington	Falmouth	Warsaw	Richmond	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	London	Cumberland Falls	Total
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	696
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	-	1	-	-	750
321	-	24	4	252	-	502	489	263	3	19	156	-	214	107	325	7	6930
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	29
10	-	-	-	-	-	20	84	12	-	-	77	17	68	14	-	-	2249
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	5	-	48
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	20	1	4	-	-	-	171
171	28	15	78	26	-	159	500	51	14	15	190	49	189	93	47	50	19822
20	-	-	-	-	-	14	87	-	-	-	31	-	6	-	-	-	299
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	wk	-	-	-	52
-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	-	-	-	13	-	4	-	1	-	178
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	wk	-	-	-	99
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	12	1	wk	9	-	-	91
wk	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	98	-	29	30	-	-	1569
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	wk	-	-	-	51
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	wk	3	-	-	3384
-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
wk	-	-	22	-	-	-	10	1	-	4	3	-	5	21	1	3	372
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	821
-	-	4	25	-	-	-	410	5	-	2	2	7	26	57	-	wk	935
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	wk	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	14	-	-	-	80	2	-	-	35	-	2	1	-	-	473
10	41	-	-	-	-	5	152	8	104	22	65	11	36	17	13	1	904
-	wk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8	20	-	1	-	-	-	76
-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	wk	-	-	-	26
7	-	2	113	1	-	1	7	1	7	7	44	2	9	7	7	5	509
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	160	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	15	1	-	508
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1097
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	325
6	5	7	5	31	-	14	43	9	3	9	11	5	12	10	2	1	355
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

2014–2015 Christmas Bird Count	Ballard County	Calloway County	Land Between the Lakes	Sorgho	Elkton	Paradise	Bowling Green	Western Allen County	Eastern Allen County	Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park	Hodgenville	Otter Creek Park	Bernheim Forest	Louisville
Blk-cr. Night-Heron	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Black Vulture	5	145	189	–	9	6	4	568	217	–	70	32	29	65
Turkey Vulture	12	67	8	3	70	3	17	543	294	6	28	114	1	15
Osprey	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bald Eagle	31	16	55	1	–	3	–	–	3	1	–	1	3	7
Northern Harrier	7	1	–	6	5	19	2	10	9	–	wk	–	–	–
Sharp-shinned Hawk	–	–	3	2	–	1	3	2	2	wk	–	–	3	6
Cooper's Hawk	1	–	2	5	3	2	7	4	9	–	1	2	3	20
Sharp-sh./Cooper's Hawk	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	7	3	2	5	13	1	11	12	1	2	8	15	24
Red-tailed Hawk	26	11	11	39	45	12	23	45	37	–	5	9	19	37
Golden Eagle	1	–	wk	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Virginia Rail	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
American Coot	–	1704	567	–	–	26	35	–	–	–	1	–	–	35
Sandhill Crane	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	wk	1568	125	–	–	–	wk
Killdeer	66	64	54	71	269	2	–	225	615	–	1	24	8	51
Least Sandpiper	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Wilson's Snipe	2	–	17	–	7	–	–	7	14	–	1	–	2	1
American Woodcock	3	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–
Bonaparte's Gull	–	324	959	–	–	1	–	–	671	–	–	–	–	–
Ring-billed Gull	3	790	737	–	–	8	–	–	995	–	–	–	–	255
Herring Gull	–	8	228	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Great Blk.-backed Gull	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Les. Black-backed Gull	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Forster's Tern	–	17	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Rock Pigeon	20	113	150	528	86	56	820	127	144	–	14	37	267	484
Eurasian Collared-Dove	4	26	–	20	9	–	2	–	17	–	–	3	–	–
Mourning Dove	90	86	64	185	635	57	442	828	262	4	519	374	191	509
Barn Owl	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Eastern Screech-Owl	1	–	–	4	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	4
Great Horned Owl	–	2	1	3	3	4	1	–	7	–	–	–	1	3
Barred Owl	2	1	6	1	2	6	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	2
Short-eared Owl	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Belted Kingfisher	3	4	17	2	5	4	3	9	10	4	5	2	4	17
Red-headed Woodpecker	34	17	76	–	9	2	–	63	11	2	5	11	2	–
Red-bellied Woodpecker	35	50	87	39	56	17	29	188	149	14	22	34	42	87
Yel.-bellied Sapsucker	12	7	26	2	5	2	4	24	19	3	–	2	8	16

Shelbyville	Hart County	Nolin River	Green River Lake	Frankfort	Kleber WMA	Danville	Lexington	Burlington	Falmouth	Warsaw	Richmond	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	London	Cumberland Falls	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
86	4	90	26	203	37	99	257	86	19	220	44	127	67	336	22	8	3070
65	30	140	5	143	-	20	76	15	-	35	1	59	37	121	18	-	1946
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	1	-	3	2	1	-	1	1	2	3	1	1	wk	1	-	1	139
wk	3	6	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	1	2	1	-	1	78
1	1	1	-	3	-	-	4	1	-	-	3	-	4	-	-	-	40
1	7	-	1	1	-	9	8	2	4	6	1	-	6	2	1	-	108
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	9
-	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	2	1	8	8	16	14	170
22	14	14	11	15	5	52	73	15	12	16	26	7	32	13	14	10	670
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	37	-	-	10	12	41	-	-	540	1	12	4	14	-	3039
-	wk	200	10	wk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	wk	-	2	-	-	1910
2	21	9	431	1	-	30	15	2	5	-	1	42	31	19	28	-	2087
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	-	66
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	75	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	wk	1	-	1	-	2056
3	-	2	739	-	-	-	-	wk	3	61	-	2	24	36	1	11	3670
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	236
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
325	41	17	7	390	28	187	339	36	6	92	82	37	131	80	658	3	5305
3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	95
208	290	75	3	155	57	570	540	80	112	213	319	145	477	570	308	30	8398
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	5	1	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	3	-	1	4	2	1	-	40
1	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	38
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	1	32
wk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
7	6	1	2	11	2	5	14	4	3	3	15	1	12	3	2	5	185
1	8	9	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	17	-	4	282
14	28	19	26	41	5	35	65	37	21	16	36	31	58	52	30	35	1398
1	wk	wk	1	5	1	4	12	4	-	3	2	1	6	-	-	4	174

[illegible]



Shelbyville	Hart County	Nolin River	Green River Lake	Frankfort	Kleber WMA	Danville	Lexington	Burlington	Falmouth	Warsaw	Richmond	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	London	Cumberland Falls	Total
17	22	8	12	33	5	27	91	28	13	13	25	12	59	25	17	25	942
2	10	–	1	9	–	2	7	7	–	7	3	3	10	5	5	5	190
13	17	18	9	21	4	24	39	10	6	4	21	34	50	25	21	20	842
2	8	3	9	9	2	9	19	7	3	2	17	8	14	22	18	18	379
22	55	33	19	5	12	75	64	11	10	26	32	49	60	25	26	7	900
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	10
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	8
–	1	–	2	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	3	8	7	8	2	63
–	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	wk	–	–	–	15
29	74	55	52	77	12	119	216	123	163	88	116	82	233	218	139	102	3926
31	215	160	126	147	116	159	519	61	65	101	216	132	769	354	924	172	6685
21	–	100	23	–	–	–	–	40	–	8	–	–	4	–	–	–	2740
21	28	20	32	92	1	71	288	79	31	26	72	40	138	72	82	130	2472
13	22	23	96	35	4	50	104	45	22	11	37	31	165	85	105	83	2220
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3
11	17	4	12	23	1	4	23	21	11	9	25	25	40	42	27	43	767
–	2	1	–	5	–	–	17	2	–	1	–	2	4	2	2	3	151
–	1	–	–	–	–	2	3	–	–	–	–	1	4	3	8	6	76
wk	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
8	17	4	14	64	13	48	120	48	16	20	47	34	86	65	63	58	1396
6	2	5	1	4	2	–	15	1	–	2	1	5	15	5	7	28	240
–	2	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	1	–	2	1	1	1	–	48
17	68	40	55	12	5	47	62	8	13	–	10	93	109	89	159	87	1895
–	–	3	–	–	–	–	8	–	–	3	–	2	5	5	3	4	96
14	15	19	72	279	24	114	1037	230	173	93	43	6	89	107	58	23	12546
–	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
26	23	10	17	27	7	100	72	15	11	21	30	34	118	37	77	22	1123
wk	3	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	2	3	5	61
1427	5400	3060	953	1087	534	9652	5072	724	569	1060	788	932	7932	2557	2274	313	17919
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	687
–	–	1	33	16	–	–	7	wk	1	–	–	–	8	–	–	–	1949
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4078
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
–	17	12	37	–	–	–	18	5	1	1	–	3	19	1	1	–	279
–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1

2014–2015 Christmas Bird Count	Ballard County	Calloway County	Land Between the Lakes	Sorgho	Elkton	Paradise	Bowling Green	Western Allen County	Eastern Allen County	Mammoth Cave Nat'l Park	Hodgenville	Otter Creek Park	Bernheim Forest	Louisville
Com. Yellowthroat	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–
Eastern Towhee	32	19	43	10	37	42	7	91	23	3	22	29	60	25
Amer. Tree Sparrow	1	–	3	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	1	1	3	17
Chipping Sparrow	–	–	–	–	16	5	–	15	3	4	wk	–	2	3
Field Sparrow	71	2	11	–	39	17	9	143	102	24	66	105	97	46
Savannah Sparrow	4	5	3	4	40	16	21	31	13	–	5	–	3	3
Le Conte's Sparrow	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fox Sparrow	18	8	1	2	3	40	3	44	27	4	–	4	6	3
Song Sparrow	60	7	39	40	104	108	58	239	219	34	50	77	186	212
Swamp Sparrow	40	2	11	4	31	71	10	49	97	–	7	13	26	41
White-thr. Sparrow	162	121	209	37	152	162	106	412	220	67	49	88	112	271
White-cr. Sparrow	35	4	1	3	184	35	14	277	128	–	82	2	44	21
Dark-eyed Junco	98	167	468	35	224	146	33	237	59	86	56	206	215	260
Northern Cardinal	104	130	114	96	270	122	108	610	384	36	130	105	137	423
Red-wg. Blackbird	135	50	95	622	82689	376	220	649	98	–	2	–	–	71
Eastern Meadowlark	30	31	1	33	243	44	55	254	276	–	61	7	5	5
Rusty Blackbird	1	4	6	–	10	2	16	20	–	–	–	–	–	6
Common Grackle	1100	105	228	13552	5547	1200	1	66	16	–	136	–	6	2000
Brown-hd. Cowbird	–	3	3	8	6195	–	1	1921	2414	–	–	–	–	71
Purple Finch	–	1	2	–	–	8	wk	13	19	–	4	6	2	1
House Finch	24	34	18	76	54	9	56	258	74	–	41	–	21	113
Pine Siskin	–	–	–	–	12	7	2	1	wk	–	–	–	1	1
American Goldfinch	32	82	127	53	131	110	33	644	423	26	110	136	78	298
House Sparrow	42	12	73	152	156	16	44	100	158	–	170	8	25	127
Day of Count	D16	J04	D14	J01	D31	J01	D14	J03	D20	D17	J04	D27	D20	D14
Number of Species	86	82	96	61	78	92	67	75	77	42	63	58	65	92
No. of Individuals	24198	8363	14563	23114	154528	7343	14160	18428	13597	1101	3827	3909	5070	68442
No. of Observers	7	9	25	15	12	5	4	41	20	6	5	8	11	45

Shelbyville	Hart County	Nolin River	Green River Lake	Frankfort	Kleber WMA	Danville	Lexington	Burlington	Falmouth	Warsaw	Richmond	Russell-Adair County	Somerset	Wayne County	London	Cumberland Falls	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	8	6	6	6	12	2	34	17	3	13	33	16	45	22	25	8	699
wk	-	-	-	12	3	-	3	56	1	14	-	-	4	-	-	-	124
2	-	-	-	-	-	11	2	-	-	-	1	-	4	6	1	1	76
12	25	12	28	24	-	37	35	20	6	6	23	16	106	50	50	40	1222
1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	168
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	wk	-	-	2	1	18	-	2	-	192
35	135	38	35	66	24	40	125	68	9	31	41	32	182	76	88	44	2502
2	18	2	-	9	1	-	28	6	3	1	4	5	26	7	4	2	520
15	46	32	33	49	20	53	436	51	21	35	71	52	247	29	97	91	3546
38	123	65	2	33	24	162	56	9	2	34	31	8	84	24	6	3	1534
29	8	101	57	37	15	99	97	63	48	39	20	72	271	65	165	144	3620
85	110	39	77	114	39	287	388	171	78	77	132	82	495	118	183	153	5397
1	3850	115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	7	100	-	-	89104
23	6	34	4	-	1	8	13	-	1	-	27	39	41	96	75	-	1413
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	107
-	150000	-	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	8	1	-	-	-	173971
-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	-	1	-	9	8	-	-	10647
-	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	wk	3	-	-	1	75
26	43	4	7	62	-	193	258	5	21	18	34	25	267	34	68	7	1850
-	-	-	-	2	-	4	8	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	wk	42
29	45	65	6	103	23	80	278	58	29	56	28	66	308	45	60	49	3611
27	28	20	10	92	6	151	178	16	3	62	5	18	112	16	42	1	1870
D21	D14	D30	D30	D14	J04	D20	D20	D27	J03	D20	D14	D16	J01	D18	D30	D19	
60	65	58	60	52	34	55	75	61	49	56	69	68	86	73	61	53	134
3311	161043	4832	3606	3843	1046	13394	13050	2706	1663	2650	3811	2650	13716	6161	6411	1894	606430
13	13	6	7	20	2	27	40	12	4	4	10	7	10	5	12	7	412

**Eastern Allen County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center along Rhoden Creek, 3.0 miles n. of Holland, Ky., Post Office; 36.7426°, -086.06855°). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 20; 5:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky mostly cloudy to partly cloudy in the afternoon; temp. 25-40°F; wind S 0-7 m.p.h.

Twenty observers in nine parties. Total party hours 53 (23 on foot, 30 by buggy). Total party-miles 123 (25 on foot, 98 by buggy). Total species 77; total individuals 13,597.

Observers: Jamin Beachy, Makaya Beachy, Marena Beachy, Matthan Beachy (compiler), Daniel Brubaker, John David Brubaker, Matthew Brubaker, Stephen Brubaker, Timothy Brubaker, Noah Glick, Ethan Hoover, Joseph Hoover, Matthew Hoover, James Sensenig, Judith Senenig, Daniel Troyer, Nelson Troyer, Alan Zimmerman, Miriam Zimmerman, and Karl Weaver.

Comments: Another enjoyable day even though we did lose party hours and species. No exceptionally good finds were turned up, although a late Pine Warbler was found. Some species were seen in above-average numbers, including both vulture species, Sandhill Cranes, and Killdeer. The American Woodcock was a new species for this count. Thanks everybody!

**Mammoth Cave National Park** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Park Headquarters; 37.18644°, -086.1101°). Habitat as described in 1980. Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. CST. Sky overcast in the a.m. to sunny in the p.m.; temp. 33-40°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h.

Six observers in two parties. Total party-hours 15 (6 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 116 (3 on foot, 113 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 1101.

Observers: Noah Ashley, Valerie Brown, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Chris Groves, Wayne Mason, Albert Meier.

**Hodgenville** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at courthouse square in downtown Hodgenville; 37.57375°, -085.74038°). Habitat as described in 2011. Jan. 4; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. EST. Sky mostly cloudy with light mist late in the morning/mid-day; temp. 52-39°F; wind NW 10-15 m.p.h., gusts to 25 m.p.h.

Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 135 (2 on foot, 133 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 3827.

Observers: Brooks Atherton, Lyn Atherton, Bill Friel, Rosemary Meredith, and Barbara Woerner (compiler).

Comments: Bird activity diminished after mid-day as blustery winds set in and temperatures dropped.

**Otter Creek Park** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center just west of the jct. of Ky 1238 and Pack Lane, about two miles sw. of the Park entrance; 37.91409°, -086.069836°). Habitat as described in 2001. Dec 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy with light intermittent showers in the morning; cloudy mid-day; cloudy with rain after mid-afternoon; temp. 43-50°F; wind S, 5-15 m.p.h. Water open.

Eight observers in four to five parties. Total party hours 27 (14 on foot, 13 by car). Total party miles 159 (3 on foot, 156 by car). Hours owling: 1.0. Total species 57; total individuals 3908.

Observers: Carol Besse, Kim Ennis, Eddie Huber, Jennifer Huber, Brian Johnson, Charlie Logsdon, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and Barbara Woerner.

Comments: The species total (57) was well below average for this count, due in large part to the cloudy day with intermittent (morning) to persistent (mid-afternoon and later) rain showers. The single highlight was a lingering female Common Yellowthroat found near Doe Valley Lake.

**Bernheim Forest** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Forest lookout tower, 2.75 mi. se. of Forest entrance; 37.902405°, -085.62752°). Habitat as described in

1974. Dec 20; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky mostly clear; temp. 27-38° F; wind N, 0-10 m.p.h. Water open.

Eleven observers in seven parties. Total party hours 38 (14 on foot, 24 by car). Total party miles 249 (6 on foot, 243 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 5069.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Dona Coates, Brian Davis, Eddie Huber, Jennifer Huber, Rob Lane, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Nancy Vance, Kelly Vowels, Carolyn Waters, and Barbara Woerner.

Comments: In general the cold, sunny day was a good one for finding birds. The species total (65) was about average for this count for recent years. Highlights of the day included three Bald Eagles, two Pine Warblers, two Chipping Sparrows, and a single Pine Siskin. Red-breasted Nuthatches were missed, and winter finches (including Purple Finch) were scarce. Natural food supplies appeared to be in relatively low supply.

**Louisville** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Jct. hwy 42 and 22; 38.2813°, -085.6348°). Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 43-47°F; wind SSW, 7 m.p.h. It was misty, foggy and cold.

Forty-five observers in 19 parties. Total party-hours 79 (56 on foot, 23 by car), Feeder watching over 6.75 hours. Total party miles 288.1 (36.7 on foot, 251.4 by car). Owling hours 3.5 over 4.25 miles. Total species 92; total individuals 68,442.

Observers: Win Ahrens, Michael Autin, Jamie Baker, Tom Becker, Pat Bedford, Sherm Bedford, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (co-compilers), Carol Besse, Ren Bilkey, Wanda Bilkey, Carl Bochmann, JoAnn Bochmann, Karen Bonsell, Dona Coates, Marge Constan, Colleen Craven-Becker, Wes Cunningham, Rod Goforth, Nancy Grant, Chuck Hatten, Bob Herndon, Jane Herndon, Bob Johnson, Brian Johnson, Donovan Jones, Frank Krull, John Krull, Rob Lane, Richard Mayfield, Pat Meyer, Mark Monroe, Jim Mosher, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Patrice Pittman, Peggy Renn, Michael Riggs, Tim Ritter, Tom Sklodoski, David Stewart, Jack Still, Del Striegel, Nancy Vance, Major Waltman, and Barbara Woerner.

Comments: The Louisville CBC took place on a cold, foggy, misty day. Despite the weather conditions the 45 participants found 92 species, one of our highest counts in recent years. The count of total individuals was boosted by the large numbers of European Starlings, Common Grackles, and American Robins counted going into a roost near Douglass Hills. There was also an increase in the total numbers of many other species. Highlights were 7 Bald Eagles, 3 Peregrine Falcons, 65 Black Vultures (compared to only 15 Turkey Vultures), 4 Eastern Screech-Owls (last year 0), and 50 Brown Creepers. Sandhill Crane and American Black Duck were seen during count week. Thanks to all who participated this year.

**Shelbyville** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center three-quarters of a mile s. of US 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714; 38.18997°, -085.14535°). Elevation 640-1190'. Habitat: farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. Sky clear. 19-45°F; wind W, 5 m.p.h.

Thirteen observers in eight parties. Total party-hours 58.50 (37.25 on foot, 21.25 by car). Total party-miles 254 (15 on foot, 239 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 3311.

Observers: Bryan Baker, Horace Brown (compiler), Joan Brown, Karin Ceralde, Kevin Flowers, Donnie Hill, Pat Hill, Sam Houston, Tom Hower, Jackie Irwin, Walt Reichart, Benton Young, and Thomas Young.

**Hart County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center corner of Craddock Road and Jaggers Lane; 37.28352°, -085.83795°). Habitat: rural fields and forests; one large (Hundred-Acre) pond, and Green River. Dec. 14; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky cloudy, afternoon rain; temp. 38-49°F; wind, none to light.

Thirteen observers in three parties. Total party-hours 15 (8 on foot, 7 by car). Total



party-miles 140 (3 on foot, 137 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 161,043.

Observers: Bonnie Avery, Bruce Bardin, John Brittain, Tom Durbin, Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Nancy Givens, Janet Kistler, Steve Kistler (compiler), Joyce Lynn, Cap Middleton, John Perry, and Mitch Sturgeon.

**Nolin River** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center 0.5 miles south of Hilltop, e. Grayson County; 37.38964°, -086.1137°). Habitat: woodland, farmland, river and Nolin Reservoir. Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST. Sky clear; temp. 25-39°F; wind NE, 5-10 m.p.h.

Six observers in two parties. Total party-hours 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 150 (2 on foot, 148 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 4832.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, John Brittain (compiler), Carol Friedman, Dan Givens, Janet Kistler, and Steve Kistler.

Comments: This was the lowest species count (58) since the first year of the count in 2002. We missed Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Red-winged Blackbird, all of which have usually been seen on earlier counts. Generally, there was a low count for waterfowl. The 75 Bonaparte's Gulls were a count high. Three Snow Geese were a first for the count. A large native grass field that previously was the center of Short-eared Owl activity has been converted to corn and no owls were observed.

**Green River Lake** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor Co.; 37.17541°, -085.22041°). Habitat: old fields, agricultural fields and borders, second growth forest, Green River riparian areas, open water, including Green River Lake and Campbellsville City Lake. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky clear; temp. 27-37°F; wind N 5-15 m.p.h. This was one of a few days not overcast.

Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 22.5 (9.0 on foot, 13.5 by car). Hours feeder watching 0.5. Total party-miles 149.45 (5.75 on foot, 143.70 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 3606.

Observers: Lloyd Curry (compiler), Robert Doty, Eddie Huber, Richie Kessler, Andrea Obryan, Carol Sole, and Jeff Sole.

Comments: The count was down three species from last year. It was amazing that only three Mourning Doves were observed. Black Vultures were very prominent this year.

[*Editor's note:* The Gray Catbird report was accompanied by a written description; it was seen along Ebenezer Road in Taylor County]

**Frankfort** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center jct. US 127 and KY 1900; 38.22612°, -084.85022°). Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 14; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 41-47°F; wind SE, 10-12 m.p.h.

Twenty observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 33.75 (20.25 on foot, 13.50 by car). Total party-miles 120.75 (18.75 on foot, 102.00 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 3843.

Observers: Matt Brotherton, Robert Chadwick, Barb Cornett, Peggy Gould (compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Jeff Jones, Joel Jones, Robert Laurenson, Susan Laurenson, Edwin Shouse, Mary Shouse, Lynne Spencer, Mike Spencer, Sam Spencer, Gary Sprandel, Kyra Vorisek, Shawchyi Vorisek, and Emily Webb.

**Kleber Wildlife Management Area** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at Hensler, Owen Co. 38.4633°, -084.7769°). Habitat as described in 1972. Jan. 4; 7:40 a.m. to 4:11 p.m. EST. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 51-40°F; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h., with gusts to 30 m.p.h.

Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 8.5 (2.5 on foot, 6.0 by car). Total party-miles 33.1 (4.0 on foot, 29.1 by car). Total species 34; total individuals 1046.

Observers: Jeff Jones (compiler) and Joel Jones.

Comments: It was very windy with a gradual decrease in temperature throughout the day. Some reliable spots had no birds at all. It was a difficult day with birds remaining quiet and hidden in heavy cover.

**Danville** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Boyle County Courthouse; 37.64634°, -084.77345°). Habitat: water edge (15%), urban (8%), cultivated (10%), field/fence row (35%), wooded edge (25%), and feeder (7%). Dec. 20; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 28-40°F; wind calm.

Twenty-seven observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 49.25 (10.50 on foot, 38.75 by car). Total party-miles 472.55 (8.35 on foot, 464.20 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 13,394.

Observers: Jane Brantley, JP Brantley, Jim Bredar, Sallie Bright, Carol Clark, Yancy Clark, Granville Cox, Andy Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Virginia Eklund, Stephanie Fabritius, Gus Faeth, Michael Hamm, Kate Heyden, Mike Lauer, Danielle LaLonde, Ben Leffew, Anne Lubbers, Gail Manning, Preston Miles, Eric Mount, Jim Porter, Linda Porter, Jamie Powell, Rose-Marie Roessler, Milton Scarbough, and Patsi Trollinger.

**Lexington** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center East Hickman Church on Tates Creek Road; 37.9198°, -084.4693°). Habitat: suburban farms, woodlots, water company reservoirs, Kentucky River cliffs and bottomland. Dec. 20; 6:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 27-38°F; wind NE 0-8 m.p.h.

Forty observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 84.25 (30.50 by foot, 53.75 by car), with 8 hours at feeders and 3.50 hours owling. Total party-miles 470.05 (24.80 by foot, 445.25 by car), with 34.25 miles owling. Total species 75; total individuals 13,050.

Observers: Ben Albritton, Laura Baird, Nancy Barnett, Ramesh Bhatt, Thad Bishop, Gretchen Bolton, Lisa Combs, Mary Carol Cooper, John Cox, Montana Cox, Ed DeMoll, Barbara Dickison, Ann Gossage, Jim Hodge, Marsha Hopkins, Kevin Hopper, Alice Howell, Beverly James, Allen Kingsland, Betsy Lang, David Lang (compiler), Judy Lundquist, Andy Mead, David Moldoff, Tina Nauman, Ronan O'Carra, Beth Oleson, Carol Pickett, Layton Register, Spencer Reinhard, Lou Shain, Jeff Sole, Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Joe Swanson, Mark Tower, George Weems, Jim Williams, Bernice Wood, and Suzanne Zivari.

[*Editor's note:* One of the Gray Catbirds was photographed; the other report was accompanied by a written description. The Black-and-white Warbler, a first for the state during winter, was observed at Raven Run Sanctuary, and the report was accompanied by a written description]

**Burlington** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center near Camp Michaels; 38.94932°, -084.74625°). Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 27; 6:45 a.m. to 4:55 p.m. EST. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 39-48°F; wind SE, 0-12 m.p.h. Most water was open.

Twelve observers in six parties. Total party-hours 30.5 (16.0 on foot, 12.5 by car, 2.6 by bicycle). Total party-miles 166 (8 on foot, 146 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 2706.

Observers: Linda Altevers, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Pat Carroll, Melissa Desjardin, Barb Dickison, Ed Groneman, Lee McNeely (compiler), Gayle Pille, Tommy Stephens and Scott Zumwalde.

Comments: Access to the East Bend Power Plant ash pond was restricted, which contributed to lower than normal waterfowl numbers.

**Falmouth** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center near Caddo, Ky.; 38.74738°, -084.24473°). Habitat: 50% woodland and forest edge, 25% river and lake shoreline, 20% agricultural, and 5% residential. Jan. 3; 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. EST. Sky overcast; temp. 37-58°F; wind SE, 5-15 m.p.h. Light rain occurred throughout most of the day.

Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours 16 (3 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 123 (2 on foot, 121 by car). Total species 49; total individuals 1663.

Observers: Rodney Crice, Barb Dickison, Pam Kutscher, and Lee McNeely (compiler).

Comments: Continuing construction at Meldahl Dam is reducing habitat and Ohio River access. Several species of birds were notable by their absence and low numbers. Highlights included Bald Eagle, Rusty Blackbird, and Purple Finch.

**Warsaw** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse; 38.78387°, -084.90227°). Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 20; 6:50 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. EST. Sky mostly cloudy, some light rain; temp. 29-38°F; wind S, 0-15 m.p.h.

Four observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (2 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 166 (2 on foot, 164 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 2650.

Observers: Ed Groneman, Eddie Huber, Lee McNeely (compiler), and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Comments: We were unable to visit Ghent Power Plant this year leading to lower than normal waterfowl numbers. Gull numbers were unusually low, as were Golden-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Highlights included three Bald Eagles, two Peregrine Falcons, and Pine Siskins.

**Richmond** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center 0.75 air miles e. of jct. US 25 and Ky 1983 (White Station Road); 37.6311°, -084.2638°). Habitat: fencerows and roadsides (20%), woodland (20%), pasture and open fields (55%), lawns (4%), lakes and ponds (1%). Dec. 14; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Sky overcast; temp. 40-46°F; wind 0-5 m.p.h.

Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 24.0 (8.5 on foot, 15.5 by car), 2 hours feeder watching. Total party-miles 220.9 (7.5 on foot, 213.4 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 3810.

Observers: Gretchen Bolton, Dustin Brewer, David Brown, Drew Harvey, Katrina Moeller, Zach Moore, Brianna Ritchison, Gary Ritchison (compiler), Tammy Ritchison, and Katheryn Watson.

[*Editor's note:* The Osprey was seen at Lake Vega on the Bluegrass Army Depot, and the report was accompanied by a written description. A Common Yellowthroat was also reported at Lake Vega based on the detection of call notes, but the bird was not seen. The latter report may be valid but has not been included in either the species total or the summary table]

**Russell-Adair County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center intersection of Owensby Road and Hwy. 3281; 36.96583°, -085.12167°). Habitat: mixed and deciduous woodland, pasture fields, streams and lake, mostly rural with a small percentage of urban. Elevation ranges from 530 to 1140 feet above sea level. Dec. 16; 5:08 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. CST. Sky overcast; temp. 43-53°F; wind W, 10-25 m.p.h.

Seven observers in three parties. Total part-hours 27.25 (2.00 on foot, 25.25 by car). Total party-miles 235.5 (1.5 on foot, 234.0 by car). Total species 68; total individuals 2650.

Observers: Wendy Burt, Granville Cox, Thelma Cox, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Linda McClendon, and Arlene Morton.

**Somerset** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center junction of Bypass Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 39; 37.10245°, -084.60376°). Habitat as described in 2000. Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST. Sky cloudy; temp. 19-41°F; wind SW, 0-12 m.p.h.

Ten observers in six parties. Total party-hours 48.25 (6.00 by foot, 42.25 by car). Total party-miles 365.5 (3.5 on foot, 362.0 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 13,716.

Observers: Rhonda Bryant, Susan Blocher, Granville Cox, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Gay Hodges, Laura Kamperman, James Kiser, Scott Marsh, and David Powers.

**Wayne County** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center jct. Hwy. 1275 and Hwy. 3106; 36.8972°, -084.8215°). Habitat as described in 2002. Dec 18; 6:30 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. CST. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 29-37°F; wind N, 0-4 m.p.h. All water open.

Five observers in four parties. Total party hours 33.75 (6.25 on foot, 27.50 by car). Total party-miles 220.5 (3.5 on foot, 217.0 by car). Total species 73; total individuals 6161.

Observers: Roseanna Denton (compiler), Gay Hodges, Bret Kuss, Arlene Morton, and Stephen J. Stedman.

**London** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center at jct. Rte. 3432 and US 25; 37.13544°, -084.-09445°). Habitat as described in 2014. Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST. sky partly cloudy in the a.m., clear in the p.m.; temp. 27-40°F; wind N, 0-8 m.p.h.

Twelve observers in four parties. Total party hours 39.0 (4.0 on foot, 35.0 by car). Total party miles 327.75 (1.75 on foot, 326.00 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 6411.

Observers: Wendi Allen, Granville Cox (compiler), Thelma Cox, Roseanna Denton, Steve Denton, Lacey Dixon, Abi Dixon, Kane Fullmer, Bobbie Idol, Bret Kuss, Marie Oakley, and Tucker Robinson.

**Cumberland Falls** (all points within a 7.5-mile radius circle, center on upper Bark Camp Creek; 36.8900°, -084.2611°). Habitat: mostly forested (about 70% upland oak and pine, mixed forest and hemlock forest), about 20% in small rural home lots, small farm holdings, and minimal residential and urban areas. One moderately large reservoir (Laurel Lake) and about 17 miles of Cumberland River/Lake Cumberland and its riparian forest. Dec. 14; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST; sky clear a.m. and cloudy p.m.; temp. 31-41°F; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h.

Seven observers in four parties. Total party hours 32.25 (6.00 on foot, 26.25 by car), with 1.00 hour owling. Total party miles 230.0 (6.5 on foot, 223.5 by car), with 1.5 miles owling. Total species 53; total individuals 1894.

Observers: Sara Ash, Granville Cox, Thelma Cox, Roseanna Denton, Steve Denton, Bret Kuss (compiler), and Renee Yetter.



Gray Catbird, Lexington CBC  
20 December 2014  
Tina Nauman

## FIELD NOTE

## A Brown Creeper Nest on Little Black Mountain, Harlan County

On 26 May 2007 I was conducting avian surveys for Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) and Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) on the Kentucky side of Little Black Mountain, Harlan County, Kentucky, when I heard some high-pitched call notes coming from about 325 ft (100 m) away in the open woodlot being surveyed. After searching for about ten minutes, I found that the source of the calls was a Brown Creeper (*Certhia americana*). I subsequently observed two creepers go into what appeared to be a nest hanging from under and somewhat behind loose slabs of bark on a half-dead American elm (*Ulmus americanus*).

The nest was about 14 ft (4.3 m) above the ground. The surrounding forest block was typical mixed deciduous, with a steep slope and rugged terrain. The edges had been reclaimed from contour mining with Black locust (*Robinia pseudoaccacia*) and pines (*Pinus* sp.), resulting in an open, dry slope forest with relatively tall locusts. The elevation was about 3010 ft (941 m). Other forest bird species detected in the immediate vicinity of the nest site included Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*), Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*), Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*), Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*), Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*), and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Phoebastria ludovicianus*). Bird species in adjacent woodland edge habitat included Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*), Golden-winged Warbler, American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*), Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*), Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*), Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), and American Goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*).

The male Brown Creeper sang four times during my period of observation. Call notes were very high pitched, with low volume and difficult to discern. I used a long pole and mirror to peek into the nest. When the mirror approached the female flushed, providing a view of six eggs. The nest was checked again 7 June 2007; on that date both parents were seen entering the nest (the male fed the nestlings twice in a five-minute period, and the female fed the nestlings once during 15 minutes of observation). The nest was checked a final time 30 June 2007; no activity was observed and the nest was collected. It has been deposited in the collection at the Southern West Virginia Bird Research Center, located near Beckley, West Virginia. No other Brown Creepers were detected while working at this study site, but I have encountered summering and presumed breeding Brown Creepers in Greenbrier and Nicholas counties, West Virginia, including along the Gauley River. The Little Black Mountain pair was nesting in mature relatively dense, mixed deciduous forest. This habitat is totally different from that utilized by birds I have observed in West Virginia, where I have more often found them in forests that contain a relatively high component of Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).

—Ronald A. Canterbury, University of Cincinnati, Department of Biological Sciences, Cincinnati, OH 45221-0006 (ron.canterbury@uc.edu).



## NEWS AND VIEWS

***The Kentucky Warbler Available in PDF Format***

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive their quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now do so. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at the following address: [brainard@mindspring.com](mailto:brainard@mindspring.com).

**Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available**

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia "Ginny" Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to K.O.S. and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to a young birder between the ages of 13 and 18 who lives in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition for a young birder to attend an American Birding Association Summer Camp. Details about the A.B.A. camps can be found on the A.B.A. website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the K.O.S. web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to K.O.S. at a meeting, or in writing. The deadline to apply for a 2015 Kingsolver Scholarship is May 15, 2015.

**Visit the K.O.S. Website**

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website at the following link: <http://www.birdky.org/>.

**K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available**

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or you can contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at ([scott.marsh@twc.com](mailto:scott.marsh@twc.com)).

**K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available**

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or you can contact Kathryn Heyden, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 ([kathryn.heyden@ky.gov](mailto:kathryn.heyden@ky.gov)).



Roseate Spoonbill, Trigg Co.  
4 August 2014  
Mel Cunningham



American White Pelicans (51)  
Falls of the Ohio, 21 September 2014  
Karen Bonsell



Hudsonian Godwit, Rowan Co.  
11 September 2014  
Mike Wright



*Plegadis ibis* (1 of 3), Union Co.  
16 September 2014  
Eddie Huber



*Plegadis ibis*, Union Co.  
24 October 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Rufous Hummingbird, Muhlenberg Co.  
12 August 2013  
Debra Vincent



# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

EFFECT OF PREDATOR TYPE, SEASON, BROOD SIZE, AND WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION ON THE NEST DEFENSE BEHAVIOR OF MALE AND FEMALE EASTERN BLUEBIRDS ( <i>SIALIA SIALIS</i> ), Kayde L. Gilbert and Gary Ritchison .....	39
WINTER 2014-2015 SEASON, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely .....	46
K.O.S. SPRING 2015 MEETING, Blaine R. Ferrell .....	57

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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## THE COVER

We thank Frank Lyne for the image of the Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) taken 20 February 2015 on his farm near Dot in Logan County (see p. 56). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## EFFECT OF PREDATOR TYPE, SEASON, BROOD SIZE, AND WEST NILE VIRUS INFECTION ON THE NEST DEFENSE BEHAVIOR OF MALE AND FEMALE EASTERN BLUEBIRDS (*SIALIA SIALIS*)

Kayde L. Gilbert and Gary Ritchison

### INTRODUCTION

Parent birds may benefit by defending nests from potential predators if such behavior increases the likelihood that their young will survive. However, such behavior may also be costly, with some risk of injury or even death. Thus, because birds seek to maximize lifetime reproductive success rather than current reproductive success, parents must assess the danger posed by a potential nest predator and then choose appropriate responses (Radford and Blakey 2000).

The intensity of nest defense by birds can be influenced by many factors. For example, females defend nests more vigorously than males in some species (Weatherhead 1989), males more vigorously than females in other species (Winkler 1992), and males and females with equal vigor in still other species (Nealen and Breitwisch 1997). Similarly, the intensity of nest defense has been found to increase with brood size in some species (Radford and Blakey 2000), but not others (Halupka 1999), and intensity varies with stage of the breeding season in some species (Redmond et al. 2009), but not others (Hobson et al. 1988).

Another factor that can influence the nest defense behavior of birds is the type of predator. For example, Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) defended nest sites more vigorously against a ferret (*Mustela putorius*) than a black rat snake (*Pantherophis obsoleta*) (Winkler 1992), and Brunton (1990) found that Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) defended nests more intensely against ground-based predators than aerial predators. Such differences in response might be influenced by the relative risk posed by a predator to both parents and offspring (Brunton 1990).

Another factor that may affect nest defense behavior is a bird's physical condition and, specifically, whether a bird has been exposed to a pathogen and is immune-challenged. Previous studies suggest that birds responding to induced immune challenges (i.e., caused by injecting non-pathogenic antigens) may increase reproductive investment (Bonneaud et al. 2004). Exposure to a pathogen could potentially influence nest defense behavior because birds and other animals invest more in current reproductive effort if the chance of surviving to reproduce again is low, i.e., the terminal investment hypothesis (Clutton-Brock 1984).

Because previous studies have produced conflicting results concerning the effects of factors such as sex, brood size, stage of the breeding season, and predator type on the nest defense behavior of birds, additional studies are needed to better clarify how and why such factors influence behavior. In addition, although investigators have induced immune challenges to study how such challenges might influence reproductive investment (e.g., clutch sizes and likelihood of re-nesting), no one to date has examined the possible effect of a viral infection on avian nest defense behavior. Thus, our objectives were to determine the effect of adult sex, brood size, stage of the breeding season, predator type, and infection with West Nile Virus on the nest defense behavior of male and female Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*).

### METHODS

Eastern Bluebirds were studied from March through August 2003 at the Blue Grass Army Depot (BGAD), located in Madison County, Kentucky. The BGAD consists of 5907 ha (14,597 ac) of open grassland and scattered woodlots. Lab work was conducted at the University of Kentucky from August 2003 through December 2004.

Prior to nest building and territory establishment by male Eastern Bluebirds, we placed



nest boxes ( $n = 100$ ) in open habitats on the BGAD. Once territories had been established and nest boxes occupied, we captured bluebirds by using mist nets. Bluebirds were lured into nets either by using playback of the songs of Eastern Bluebirds or by placing nets near occupied boxes. A blood sample (40–70  $\mu$ l) was collected from each captured bird and bluebirds were banded with a U. S. Geological Survey aluminum band plus a unique combination of three colored plastic bands.

Nest boxes were monitored every two to three days to determine their status. Blood samples were also collected from nestlings when 7–12 days old. For each nest, we determined the number of nestlings. All blood samples were analyzed to determine the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV). Blood samples were analyzed for the virus by using a reverse transcription-nested polymerase chain reaction (RT-nPCR) assay. This assay had been used previously to detect WNV in several species, including birds (Lanciotti et. al. 2000, Johnson et. al. 2001). A blood sample testing positive with the RT-nPCR indicated that the bird had WNV.

Nest defense behavior of adult bluebirds was examined when nestlings were 15–18 days old. Pairs of bluebirds were presented with two predators. During separate trials, at least 24 hrs apart, a human and a live, non-releasable Eastern Screech-Owl (*Megascops asio*) were presented at each nest. Predators moved to or were placed 0.5 m (1.6 ft) in front of nest boxes when the adults were not present. Trials began when at least one adult came within 30 m (98 ft) of the nest. Nest defense behavior was recorded for 3 min. Behaviors recorded for each bluebird included (1) the closest distance of approach to the predator ( $\pm 0.5$  m [1.6 ft]), (2) mean distance from the predator (with distances recorded every 30 sec), (3) number of songs, (4) number of alarm calls ('chit' calls; Gowaty and Plissner 1998), (5) number of flights (number of times each adult flew within 3 to 30 m (1.6 to 98 ft) of the predator), (6) number of flybys (number of flights within 1 to 2 m (1.6 to 3.2 ft) of the predator), (7) number of attacks (number of flights within 1 m (1.6 ft) of the predator), and (8) number of hits (number of times a bluebird struck the predator). For variables 1 and 2, we assumed larger numbers (i.e., staying farther from the predator) indicated a weaker response, whereas, for variables 3 through 8, we assumed higher numbers indicated a stronger response. We also assumed that attacks and hits represented the strongest response and bluebirds engaging in such behavior, by approaching a potential predator so closely, were taking the greatest risk. As such, for analysis, we used this formula:

$$\text{Nest defense intensity (NDI)} = (\text{number of songs} + \text{number of calls} + \text{number of flights} + \text{number of flybys} + \text{number of attacks} \times 2 + \text{number of attacks} \times 3) - (\text{closest distance} + \text{mean distance}),$$

to generate a single variable that quantified the intensity of nest defense by male and female Eastern Bluebirds.

We examined the possible effect of predator type (human vs. screech-owl), month (May, June, July, and August), and brood size (3, 4, or 5 young) on the nest defense behavior of Eastern Bluebirds. In addition, to examine possible effects of WNV infection on bluebird behavior, we compared the intensity of nest defense of (1) bluebirds infected with WNV to that of bluebirds not infected, and (2) bluebirds with at least one nestling infected with WNV to that of bluebirds with no nestlings infected. All analyses were conducted using analysis of variance, and all analyses were conducted using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS Institute 1989). Significance was accepted at  $P < 0.05$ , and values are presented as means  $\pm$  SE.

## RESULTS

We conducted predator trials with 65 pairs of Eastern Bluebirds. For all variables examined, analysis revealed no differences in the responses of bluebirds with different-aged nestlings (all  $P \geq 0.08$ ; all trials were conducted with pairs that had 15–18 day-old nestlings) so nestling age was not included in subsequent analyses. The intensity of nest defense

differed with predator type, with bluebirds responding more aggressively to an Eastern Screech-Owl (mean NDI =  $35.9 \pm 3.5$ ) than a human (mean NDI =  $0.1 \pm 2.8$ ; Tables 1 and 2). Male bluebirds defended with greater intensity (mean NDI =  $23.1 \pm 3.3$ ) than females (mean NDI =  $13.2 \pm 3.8$ ; Table 1), but further analysis revealed that the only significant difference between males and females was the number of songs (Table 3). The number of young (3, 4 or 5) did not influence the intensity of nest defense (Table 1). Similarly, the intensity of nest defense did not vary among months (May, June, July, and August), and no interactions were significant (Table 1).

Table 1. Effects of sex, month, predator type, and number of young on the intensity of nest defense by male and female Eastern Bluebirds defending nestlings near fledging age (15-18 days old).

Variable	SS	df	MS	F	P
Sex	4844.9	1	4844.9	5.0	0.03
Month	6047.5	3	2015.8	2.1	0.11
Predator	51908.8	1	51908.8	53.1	<0.01
Number of yg.	707.9	2	354.0	0.1	0.70
Month x number of yg.	3459.3	4	864.8	0.9	0.47
Month x predator	1695.3	3	565.1	0.5	0.65
Number of yg. x predator	3083.2	2	1541.6	1.6	0.21
Sex x predator	612.8	1	612.8	0.6	0.43
Sex x month	5590.6	3	1863.5	1.9	0.13
Sex x number of yg.	503.7	2	251.9	0.3	0.77
Sex x predator x month	1962.5	6	327.1	0.3	0.92
Sex x number of yg. x month	487.2	4	121.8	0.1	0.97
Month x number of yg. x predator	1003.5	6	250.9	0.2	0.91
Error	256021.5	187			

Of the 130 adult bluebirds, 10 were infected with WNV (7.7%; 5 males and 5 females, with the other member of the pair not infected in all cases). In addition, at least one nestling was infected with WNV in nine of the 65 nests (14%). We found no difference in the intensity of nest defense (NDI) between pairs where one adult was infected with WNV and pairs where neither adult was infected ( $F_{1, 212} = 1.4$ ,  $P = 0.24$ ). Similarly, for pairs where one adult was infected and the other was not, we found no difference between them in the intensity of nest defense ( $F_{1, 27} = 0.1$ ,  $P = 0.72$ ). Finally, the intensity of nest defense did not differ between pairs with no infected nestlings and pairs with at least one infected nestling ( $F_{1, 212} = 0.1$ ,  $P = 0.86$ ).

## DISCUSSION

### Adult sex

Our results indicate that male and female Eastern Bluebirds defended nests with equal intensity. Although males uttered more songs than females during nest defense trials, that difference may have been more the result of the tendency of males to sing more than females (Gowaty and Plissner 1998) than a different response to nest predators. Previous studies have provided conflicting results concerning the relative intensity of nest defense by males and females. As with Eastern Bluebirds in our study, male and female Northern Cardinals (*Cardinalis cardinalis*; Nealen and Breitwisch 1997) and male and female Northern Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*; Fisher and Wiebe 2006) defended nests with equal intensity. In contrast, studies of a number of other species have revealed that males defend nests more vigorously than females (Hogstad 2005, Gibson and Moehrenschrager 2008, Redmond et al. 2009, Kryštofková et al. 2011). In yet other species, females defend nests more vigorously than males (Weatherhead 1989).

Males in some species may defend nests more vigorously and take more risks than females because only females incubate eggs and brood young and, as a result, are essential for nest success (Redmond et al. 2009, Kryštofková et al. 2011). Being injured would be

Table 2. Responses of Eastern Bluebirds (males and females combined) to two potential nest predators (a human and an Eastern Screech-Owl).

Variable	Responses to Eastern Screech-Owl		Responses to human	
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Closest approach (m)***	4.0	0.5	12.1	0.9
Mean distance (m)***	8.8	1.1	16.5	0.9
Number of songs **	5.4	0.6	3.3	0.5
Number of calls**	22.8	0.8	19.9	1.0
Number of flights**	1.8	0.2	3.3	0.3
Number of flybys***	2.9	0.4	0.5	0.2
Number of attacks***	7.4	1.0	0.2	0.2
Number of hits*	0.1	0.1	0.0	—

Key to probabilities: \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , and \*\*\* $P < 0.0001$

maladaptive for both sexes (Montgomerie and Weatherhead 1988), but, if a female is severely injured or killed, nest failure would be inevitable. However, the likelihood of nest failure if a female is injured or killed varies with nest stage. During incubation and early in the nestling period when young must be brooded, the loss of a female in species where only females incubate eggs and brood young would almost certainly mean the loss of the nest. However, we conducted trials when young bluebirds were near fledging (15-18 days post-hatching). For young near the age of fledging and for species like Eastern Bluebirds where both adults provision young and fledglings (Gowaty and Plissner 1998), injury or death of the adult female would likely not result in nest failure. In such cases, females may defend nests as vigorously as males.

Table 3. Comparison of the responses of male and female Eastern Bluebirds to potential nest predators (a human and an Eastern Screech-Owl).

Variable	Males		Females	
	Mean	SE	Mean	SE
Closest approach (m)	7.3	0.8	8.7	0.9
Mean distance (m)	11.7	0.9	13.9	1.3
Number of songs*	5.4	0.6	2.6	0.5
Number of calls	19.9	1.1	17.9	1.1
Number of flights	2.2	0.2	2.1	0.3
Number of flybys	1.7	0.4	1.2	0.3
Number of attacks	3.2	0.7	3.0	0.7
Number of hits	0.05	0.04	— <sup>a</sup>	—

Key to Probability: \* $P < 0.0001$

<sup>a</sup> One female hit a screech-owl during one trial (out of 99 trials)

#### Predator type

Eastern Bluebirds in our study defended nests more vigorously in response to an Eastern Screech-Owl than a human. Other species of birds also respond differently to different potential nest predators (Veen 1977, Kleindorfer et al. 2005, Morrison et al. 2006). For example, Tree Swallows defending nest sites responded more vigorously to a ferret (*Mustela putorius*) than a black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*; Winkler 1992). Brunton (1990) reported that Killdeer defending nests responded more intensely to ground-based predators than aerial predators.

Several factors may influence how birds respond to different potential nest predators, including nest stage (eggs vs. nestlings), the likelihood that predator defense can be effective, and the degree of threat a potential predator poses to adults. Eastern Bluebirds in our study may have responded more aggressively to an Eastern Screech-Owl than to a human because an avian (aerial) predator represents a threat not only to nestlings, but to adults as

well. Similarly, the intensity of nest defense by Black-billed Magpies (*Pica pica*) was also found to vary with type of predator, with the most vigorous defense directed toward raptors regardless of nest stage (Buitron 1983). Such aggression toward raptors may be beneficial because they represent a threat to adult magpies as well as nestlings (Buitron 1983). In addition, raptors would also represent a greater threat to young birds than terrestrial predators, like humans, after they fledge. For cavity-nesting species like Eastern Bluebirds, a raptor like an Eastern Screech-Owl may not represent a serious threat to nestlings because they would likely be too large to enter most bluebird nest cavities. However, we examined the behavior of Eastern Bluebirds defending nests with young near fledging age and an Eastern Screech-Owl would pose a threat to young bluebirds after they leave nests. Thus, if an aggressive response by Eastern Bluebirds toward an Eastern Screech-Owl causes the owl to leave the area (move-on hypothesis; Curio 1978) then the risk of predation for both adults and fledglings might be reduced.

One possible explanation for the reduced response of bluebirds to a human in our study is that nest boxes were checked every two to three days once brooding began. As a result, bluebirds were exposed to a human approaching nests and checking nest contents as many as five or six times before predator trials were conducted. Bluebirds, therefore, may have habituated to human presence and activity and perceived a human as a less threatening predator. Similarly, Lord et al. (2001) found that New Zealand Dotterels (*Charadrius obscurus aquilonius*) nesting on beaches with more human activity exhibited a decreased intensity of response to a human approaching nests than did dotterels at more remote beaches. In contrast, Knight and Temple (1986) suggested that repeated visits by humans to bird nests can result in an increased intensity of response, i.e., after repeated visits by a human where no adults or nestlings are harmed, adults can 'lose fear of the predator' and, as a result, increase the intensity of their responses. Other investigators, however, have reported that repeated visits by humans to nests do not affect the intensity of responses by adult birds (e.g., Weatherhead 1989, Winkler 1992). Given the conflicting results of previous studies, the possible effect of our repeated visits to nests on the responses of adult Eastern Bluebirds during nest defense trials remains unclear.

Another possible explanation for the less vigorous response by Eastern Bluebirds to a human near their nests is that bluebirds may make judgments concerning their ability to successfully drive different predators away from nests and respond accordingly. Thus, because a large predator like a human is unlikely to be driven from nests, bluebirds may exhibit a less vigorous response. Similarly Patterson et al. (1980) suggested that the responses of White-crowned Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) to potential nest predators varied with their ability to drive them away. For example, adult White-crowned Sparrows exhibit reduced responses to snakes, possibly because sparrows are unable to drive snakes away from nests (Patterson et al. 1980).

#### Brood size

We found that brood size did not influence the intensity of nest defense by Eastern Bluebirds. Similar results have been reported for several other species of birds (Winkler 1992, Sandercock 1994, Halupka 1999, Tryjanowski and Golawski 2004). In other species of birds, the intensity of nest defense has been found to increase with increasing brood size (Wallin 1987, Wiklund 1990, Radford and Blakey 2000). Montgomerie and Weatherhead (1988) suggested that the intensity of nest defense should increase with increasing brood size because the benefits of deterring a predator increase with the number of young. At least two factors may contribute to differences among species in the effect of brood size on the intensity of nest defense. First, the value of a given number of young may vary with the reproductive potential of parents (Montgomerie and Weatherhead 1988) and, therefore, parents capable of raising fewer young might be expected to defend their smaller brood as intensively as parents with greater reproductive potential defend their larger brood. As a



result, the results of studies where only natural variation in brood size is considered may not reveal any differences in the intensity of nest defense among pairs with different brood sizes (Montgomerie and Weatherhead 1988).

A second factor that might explain differences among studies in the effect of brood size on nest defense behavior is the type of predator used in experiments. As noted previously, some predators represent a threat to both adults and young (e.g., Eastern Screech-Owl in our study) and, because inducing such predators to leave the area is beneficial to adults, responses to such predators may be similar regardless of brood size. In contrast, given that the benefits of deterring a predator increase with the number of young, the intensity of nest defense by adults may be more likely to vary with brood size when responding to predators that only threaten young.

#### Stage of breeding season

We found no seasonal (monthly; May–August) variation in the intensity of nest defense by Eastern Bluebirds. Similar results have been reported for Redwings (*Turdus iliacus*; Bjerke et al. 1985) and Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*; Hobson et al. 1988). However, previous studies have revealed a decline in the intensity of nest defense as the breeding season progresses for some species of birds (Weatherhead 1989, Halupka and Halupka 1997, Redmond et al. 2009), whereas others have reported an increase in intensity as the breeding season progresses (Regelmann and Curio 1983). A possible explanation for a decline in intensity of nest defense later in the breeding season is the declining value of nestlings later in the season (in terms of adult fitness) because of the reduced likelihood of successful recruitment of such nestlings into the breeding population late in the season (Montgomerie and Weatherhead 1988). In contrast, an increase in the intensity of nest defense as the breeding season progresses may occur because of a decline in re-nesting potential, i.e., with a reduced likelihood of being able to re-nest later in the season, adults should be willing to take greater risks to defend current nests (Montgomerie and Weatherhead 1988). For species like Eastern Bluebirds and others where the intensity of nest defense remains constant throughout the breeding season, Weatherhead (1989) proposed that the declining value of offspring as the season progresses may be balanced by the effect of declining re-nesting potential. However, another possible explanation is that, as with responses by parents with different-sized broods described previously, responses to predators like Eastern Screech-Owls that threaten both adults and young may remain constant throughout the breeding season because, regardless of time of year, inducing such predators to leave the area is always beneficial for adults as well as offspring.

#### Effect of WNV infection

The nest defense behavior of Eastern Bluebirds infected with WNV did not differ from that of non-infected bluebirds and, in addition, the behavior of adult bluebirds with an infected nestling did not differ from that of adults with no infected nestlings. Previous studies suggest that birds responding to induced immune challenges (i.e., caused by injecting non-pathogenic antigens) may increase reproductive investment (e.g., Bonneaud et al. 2004, Hanssen 2006, Velando et al. 2006, Bowers et al. 2012). Because increased effort in current reproduction can negatively impact future reproduction, animals should generally restrict current efforts to maximize lifetime reproductive success (Curio 1983). However, Clutton-Brock (1984) suggested that animals should invest more in current reproductive effort if the chance of surviving to reproduce again is low, i.e., the terminal investment hypothesis. Our results suggest that WNV infection, at least during the viremic stage, did not affect the physical condition of Eastern Bluebirds enough to affect their nest defense behavior. Similarly, Hill et al. (2010) found that being seropositive for WNV had no negative effects on the reproduction or survival of Eastern Bluebirds in Alabama.



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## WINTER 2014-2015 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during winter 2014-2015 were not quite as severe as during the previous winter, but they definitely affected the region's birdlife significantly. The winter began relatively uneventfully, with average temperatures running slightly above normal during December. Precipitation during December was a bit more variable with normal totals recorded in the central part of the state, but drier conditions occurring in the east and south, where Bowling Green received less than one-half normal precipitation during the month. Temperatures during January remained close to normal, but relatively dry conditions developed at most major recording stations, where from one-third (Louisville) to two-thirds (Paducah, Jackson) normal precipitation occurred. In contrast, conditions during February turned quite cold, with major recording stations compiling average temperatures 10-12°F below normal and temperatures dipping well into the negative single digits Fahrenheit on a few occasions during the month. Precipitation during February varied from slightly above to slightly below normal statewide with only one significant snow event across the northern half of the state mid-month.

A prolonged period of dreary weather during 2-3 December combined with an excellent movement of southbound waterbirds to result in an unprecedented fallout of several species on the state's reservoirs. The progressively worsening conditions during late winter apparently resulted in some mortality in several species, particularly Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds. However, the extremely cold weather did result in some excellent gatherings of rare gulls and for the second winter in a row, a late winter flight of waterfowl off the Great Lakes, particularly White-winged Scoters. Rarity highlights included multiple Red-throated Loons and Red-necked Grebes, California Gull, multiple Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls, Prairie Falcon, Black-and-white Warbler, and Common Redpoll.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

**Abbreviations** – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba” next to an observer's initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam, Lyon (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren (unless otherwise noted); Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan; Cecilia, Hardin; CVG = Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airport, Boone; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Freeman Lake, Hardin; Green River Lake, Adair/Taylor (unless otherwise noted); Jacobson Park, Reservoir #4 at Jacobson Park, Lexington; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, Marshall; Ken Unit, Peabody WMA, Ohio; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Kentucky Dam Village SRP, Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Peewee, Hopkins; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Lexington, Fayette; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Meldahl Dam, on the Ohio River, Bracken; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, Oldham; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson; Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg; Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, Marshall; Somerset, Pulaski; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, Fayette; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; Waitsboro = Waitsboro Recreation Area, Lake Cumberland, Pulaski; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Russell.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – local peak counts included 11,000 at Sauerheber 10 December (CP) with 16,000 there 31 December (CP), 15,000 there 5 January (TY), and 10,050 there 14 January (CP); and 7300 at Ballard WMA during the second week of December (RCO). Other reports of interest included 8 w. of Cecilia 3 December (BP, JBa, MY); 3 near Elkton, Todd, 31 December (RS); 2 at the J.C. Jones Sinkhole Ponds, Hart, 3 January (JSo); up to 6 at Spindletop Farm during early January (RO et al.) with 1 lingering there to the end of February (DSv, m. ob.); 17 at the Reformatory Lake 10

January (BP et al.) with 12 there 15 January (BP, EH, BWu); 11 at the Larue County Sportsman's Lake 13 January (RD); 40 on Lake Peewee 16 January (BC); 2 at Norton Commons, Jefferson, 6-10 February (JBe, PB, et al.); 8 at Science Hill, Pulaski, 17 February (RD); 1 at the State Game Farm Lake, Franklin, 21 February, with 6 there 24 February (RCh); 2 on Shippingport Island, Jefferson, 24 February (DSt, TB, CBe, DCr); and 8 at Winchester, Clark, 27 February (AX).

**Snow Goose** – reports of interest included peak counts of 21,000 at Sauerheber 26

November (CP) with 10,250 there 23 December (CP); 110 at Green River Lake, *Adair*, 5 January (TEs); 34 at the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BP, EHu, BWu); and 32 at Spindletop Farm 17 February (TN).

**Ross's Goose** – reports of interest included 4 at the J.C. Jones Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 1 December (ph. JSo); 1 at Jacobson Park 3 December (JSo, ph. DP); 1 at Spindletop Farm 15 January/17 February (SP/DSv, LCo); 1 at Zion, *Todd*, 31 December (†RS); 3 at Freeman Lake 15 January (RH); 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 16 January (BP, JBa, BWu, SG, TG) with 2 there 8 February (ph. JP); and 1 at Honker Lake, LBL, *Lyon/Trigg*, 31 January (ph. MC).

**Cackling Goose** – reports of interest included 4 at Jacobson Park 14 December–13 January (RO, ASK, m. ob.) with 1 last seen there 29 January (DCn), 1 along US 60, e. *Fayette*, 15 January (AX), and 1-2 at Spindletop Farm 13 January (RO)–25 February (SP) with 6 there 27 February (ph. BWu); 6 at Zion, *Todd*, 31 December (RS); up to 22 (19 January) at the Reformatory Lake during January (BDa, BP et al.); 2 on Lake Linville 8 January (ph. RD); 1 at Somerset 20 January (ph. RD); 1 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 27 January (ph. BP et al.) with likely the same bird continuing there and nearby to 8 February (RFa, m. ob.); 2 at Norwood, *Pulaski*, 19 February (RD); and 2 along River Road downstream from the mouth of Harrods Creek, *Jefferson*, 26 February (BP).

**Mute Swan** – 1-3 were reported at six scattered locales in the central part of the state during the season; 9 on a gravel pit s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 17 January (LM) represented the peak count for the season; the resident family group at the Sinclair Unit was observed twice during early January (SG, TG, et al.).

**Tundra Swan** – the wintering flock at Sauerheber numbered 48 by 3 December (CP) and peaked at 216 on 31 December (CP) and 207 on 21 January (CP); there were only three additional reports: 1 on

McDougal Lake, *Larue*, 11 January (BP, EHu, MS); 7 on Cave Run Lake 11 January (MWr et al.) with 14 there 13 January (MWr); and 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 13 January (†RD).

**Gadwall** – 250 at Sauerheber 15 December (CC) represented a very modest peak count for the season.

**American Black Duck** – peak counts of interest included 80 at Cravens Bay, LBL, *Lyon*, 14 December (JHa, DCs, et al.); and ca. 500 at Sauerheber 19 February (KMl).

**Blue-winged Teal** – a very tardy male was reported at the J.C. Jones Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 1 December (†JSo).

**Northern Shoveler** – local peak counts of interest included 400 at Sauerheber 6 December (CC) and ca. 50 on the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BWu).

**Northern Pintail** – local peak counts of interest included 24 on Barren River Lake 2 December (MBy, JBy) and 120 at Long Point 17 January (RD)

**Green-winged Teal** – local peak counts of interest included 60 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 7 December (SW) with 108 counted there 3 January (PB, JBe); 45 on the Reformatory Lake 15 January (BWu); and up to 1000 along the Tennessee River s. of Ledbetter, *Livingston*, during late January (DD).

**Canvasback** – local peak counts of interest included 145 on Barren River Lake 2 December (MBy, JBy); 200 on Goose Lake, Sinclair Unit, 15 January (SG, TG); 150 on the Ohio River at Uniontown, *Union*, 16 January (CC); and 122 at the Falls of the Ohio 29 January (DSt) with at least 200 on the Ohio River at Louisville during last two weeks of February (DSt et al.).

**Redhead** – an unprecedented fallout occurred 2-3 December with the following peak counts reported: 70 at Winchester, *Clark* (AX), at least 74 on the Ohio River at Louisville (EHu et al.), 315 at Waitsboro (RD), and 1400 on Barren River Lake (MBy, JBy), all 2 December; and 107 on Freeman Lake and 205 on Lake Pee wee (BP, JBa, MY), ca. 800 on Lake



Vega, Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison* (TEd), a total of 1430 (counts from three locales) on Lake Cumberland, *Russell* (RD), and a survey estimate of an incredible 8100 [60% of 13,500 diving ducks] on Barren River Lake (WT), all 3 December. Additional reports of interest from later in the season included 150 on Goose Lake, Sinclair Unit 15 January (SG, TG); 60 on Lake Linville 17 January (MP); and at least 150 on the Ohio River at Louisville during the last two weeks of February (DSt et al.) with a peak count of 175 there 26 February (BP et al.).

**Ring-necked Duck** – local peak counts of interest included 450 at Sauerheber 9 December (JMg), 400 on Goose Lake, Sinclair Unit, 15 January (SG, TG); and 325 along Old Henry Road, *Jefferson*, 17 January (MA).

**Greater Scaup** – small numbers were present at traditional locales, mostly along the Ohio River and in the LBL area; reports of interest included 45-50 on Barren River Lake 2 December (MBy, JBy) and 100+ on the Ohio River at Louisville during the last week of February (m. ob.) with a peak count of 150 there 26 February (BP et al.).

**Lesser Scaup** – a nice fallout also occurred for this species 2-3 December with the following peak counts reported: 100 at Winchester, *Clark* (AX), 150 at Waitsboro (RD), and 165 on Barren River Lake (MBy, JBy), all 2 December; and 125 on Freeman Lake and 330 on Lake Peewee (BP, JBa, MY), 200 above Wolf Creek Dam (RD), and a survey estimate of 2700 [20% of 13,500 diving ducks] on Barren River Lake (WT), all 3 December. Additional reports of interest included relatively modest peak counts of 430 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 4 January (HC) and most of 4000 scaup sp. on Lake Barkley above the dam 16 January (BP, JBa, SG, TG).

**Surf Scoter** – it was an excellent season with reports from eight locales as follows: 4 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (EHu et al.) with 5 there 3 December (TBe, DSt) and 1 lingering there 4-6 December (EHu et al.); 6 above Wolf Creek Dam (RD), 4 on Freeman

Lake (BP, JBa, MY), and 2 on Lake Peewee (BP, JBa, MY), all 3 December; 1 on the Ohio River at Uniontown, *Union*, 12 December (CC); 1 at Somerset 29 December–2 January (ph. RD); 2 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 30 December (JSo, ph. EHu) with 1 still there 3 January (JSo); an ad. male on the Ohio River at Newport, *Campbell*, 17-18 February (ph. JW et al.); and an ad. male on the Ohio River at Louisville 22 February (CBs, MWa, et al.) with a pair there 25-26 February (BP et al.).

**White-winged Scoter** – it was another good winter for the species with all reports being included. An early fallout occurred during early December and included 2 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (DSt, KB) with 1 still there 3 December (TBe); 1 on Barren River Lake 2 December (MBy, JBy); 6 above Wolf Creek Dam (RD) and 1 on the Flemingsburg Reservoir, *Fleming* (ph. BWu), both 3 December (ph. BWu); and 8 on Lake Linville 4 December (ph. RD). Then, another wave of birds appeared during mid-January and included the following reports: 3 on Dunham Lake, *Metcalf*, 14 January (LCu); 1+6 on the Ohio River at Louisville 14 January (BP, RFa, et al.) with 1 lingering there to 31 January (BP et al.) and 2 there 17 February (BP, RLa), 4 there 22 February (BP et al.), 7 there 25 February (BP et al.), 13 there 26 February (BP et al.), and 16 there 28 February (BP et al.); 2 at Jonathan Creek 5 February (HC) with 6 there 6 February (ME); 2 on the Ohio River below the mouth of the Little Miami River, *Campbell*, 22 February (BWu); an ad. male on a lake along Hammons Lane, London, *Laurel*, 22 February (ph. KVe); 1 on the Ohio River off Charlestown, IN, State Park, *Oldham*, 25 January/24 February (BJ/TBe, CB); and 3 on the Ohio River upstream from Newport, *Campbell* (JW), and 4 on the Ohio River at Greenup, *Greenup* (JK), both 28 February.

**Black Scoter** – there were reports from three locales as follows: 13 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (EHu et al.) with at least 10 still there 3 December (TBe et



al.), 3 there 4 December (EHu et al.) and 2 there 6 December (MA, BBC, et al.); 1 on Lake Peewee 3/4 December (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG/DSi); 4 on the Ohio River at Ashland, *Boyd*, 18 December (VS); and an imm. male that was present on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 January into March (ph. BJ et al.). A report of 24 on the Ohio River at Ashland, *Boyd*, 3 December (eBird data) is not considered confirmed herein.

**Long-tailed Duck** – there were reports from five(six) locales as follows: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (EHu, et al.); 8 on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 5 January (TEs); an ad. male at Jacobson Park 30 January (SM, RBr); 1 on Lower Douglas Lake, Ft. Knox, *Hardin*, 31 January–3 February (ph. MLe); 2 at Jonathan Creek 5/6 February (HC/ME); a female/imm. on the Ohio River at Louisville 25 February (PB, JBe, BJ) with an ad. male there (and possibly a second nearby) 27 February (ph. PS, PB, JBe, et al.); and an ad. male on Ky Lake above the dam 28 February (ph. JP).

**Bufflehead** – peak counts of interest included 137 at Waitsboro (RD) and 144 on Barren River Lake (MBy, JBy), both 2 December; and a total of 190 on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, 3 December (RD);

**Common Goldeneye** – peak counts of interest included ca. 500 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 16 January (BWu, JBa, BP, et al.) and up to 75+ on the Ohio River at Louisville during the last week of February (m. ob.) with a peak count of 90 there 26 February (BP et al.).

**Hooded Merganser** – tallies of 414 on Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 and 137 at Jacobson Park (BWu), both 1 January, represented the peak counts for the season.

**Common Merganser** – the species was relatively widespread in small numbers; reports of interest included 7 on the Ohio River at Uniontown, *Union*, 7 December (CC); 11 on the Ohio River at Catlettsburg, *Boyd*, 14 January (RLe); 5 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 11 January (BP, EHu, MS); 6 on Lake Peewee 16 January (SG, TG) with 8 there 17 January (SG, TG); 23

on Paintsville Lake, *Johnson*, 17 February (TLu); and 9 on the Ohio River at Newport, *Campbell*, 27 February (JW).

**Red-breasted Merganser** – this species was part of the remarkable fallout 2-3 December with the following peak counts reported: 65 on the Ohio River at Louisville (EHu et al.), 230 at Waitsboro (RD), and 1042 on Barren River Lake (MBy, JBy), all 2 December; 156 on Freeman Lake (JSo et al.) and 350 on Lake Peewee (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG), both 3 December; 810 total on Lake Cumberland, *Russell*, and 301 total on Lake Cumberland, *Wayne* (RD), both 3 December; 300-400 on Barren River Lake 3 December (WT); and 88 on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 5 December (RD).

**Ruddy Duck** – 80 on Barren River Lake 2 December (MBy, JBy) and 142 on Lake Peewee 3 December (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Red-throated Loon** – there were five reports: 1 on Freeman Lake 3 December (ph. BP, JBa, MY); 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 9-10 January (RD, ph. BP, et al.); 1 on the Ohio River upstream from Warsaw, *Gallatin*, 15 January (BP, ph. EHu); 1 on the Cave Run Lake 17 January (†SP); and 1 on the Ohio River just upstream from Louisville 24-28 February (ph. BJ et al.).



Red-throated Loon, *Jefferson*  
25 February 2015  
Brian Johnson

**Common Loon** – modest local peak counts included 4 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (EHu et al.); 6 on Freeman Lake 3 December (BP, JBa, MY); 10 on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln*, 4 December (RD); 18 on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 5 December (RD); and 15 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 19 December (ME).

**Pied-billed Grebe** – at least 100 on Lake Peewee 3 December (BP, JBa, MY) and 4 January (JSo), and 100+ on Green River Lake, *Taylor* 30 December/11 January (JSo/BP, EHu, MS) represented the peak counts for the season.

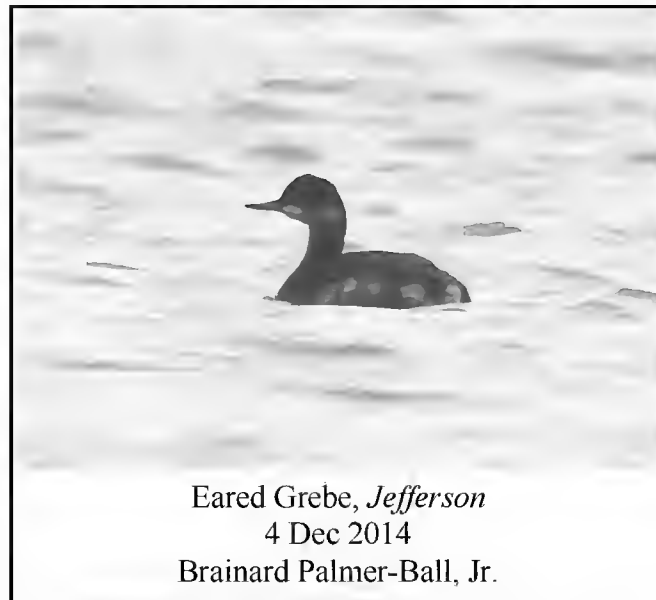
**Horned Grebe** – an excellent fallout occurred during 2-3 December and included the following peak counts: ca. 125 on the Ohio River at Louisville (EHu et al.), 146 at Waitsboro (RD), and 280 on Barren River Lake (MBy, JBy), all 2 December; 156 on Freeman Lake (JSo et al.) and at least 305 on Lake Peewee (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG), both 3 December; nearly 300 total on Lake Cumberland, *Russell/ Wayne*, 3 December (RD); and 189 on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 5 December (RD). Also of interest from later in the season were 159 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 30 December (JSo, EHu).

**Red-necked Grebe** – there were four reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 December (ph. EHu, JBa, et al.); 1 above Wolf Creek Dam 3 December (†RD); 1 on Lake Peewee 3-11 December (ph. SG, TG, BP, JBa, MY, et al.); and 1 on Cravens Bay, Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 14 December (†JHa et al.).



Red-necked Grebe, *Hopkins*  
11 Dec 2014  
Steve Graham

**Eared Grebe** – there were two reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 4-6 December (ph. EHu, MA, et al.) and 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 26 December–17 January (ph. MLu, ph. JSo et al.).



Eared Grebe, *Jefferson*  
4 Dec 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**American White Pelican** – 1 was on the Ohio River at Craig's Creek, *Gallatin*, 2 December (ph. BP, EHu); ca. 275 had returned to Ky Dam by 25 February (HC).

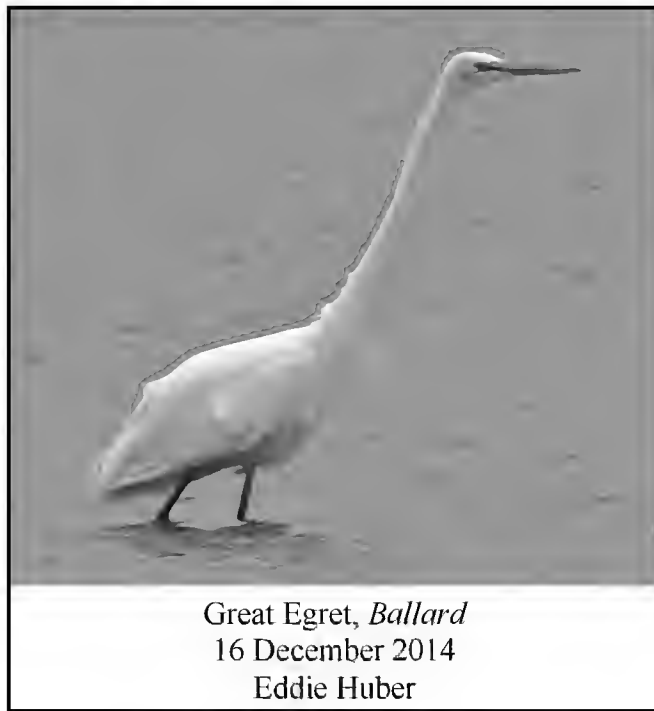
**Great Egret** – 1 lingered at the Sinclair Unit to 5 December (SG, TG) and a very tardy bird was seen adjacent to Ballard WMA 16 December (ph. SG, TG, BP, EHu).

**Black Vulture** – 193 at the Conley Bottom Resort, *Wayne*, 18 December (RD) represented the peak count for the season.

**Northern Harrier** – 15 at the Sinclair Unit 8/28 December & 14 January (SG, TG) and 14 at Sandy Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 5 January (CC) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Osprey** – an individual at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 14 December (†DBn, DBr) was exceptionally tardy.

**Red-tailed Hawk** – the darkish morph Harlan's Hawk that has wintered along Clear Creek, *Hopkins*, for several successive winters was back 3 December (BP, JBa, MY); other reports of western forms of interest included an ad. darkish morph *B. j. calurus* along US 68/KY 80 w. of Russellville, *Logan*, 31 December (RS) and a dark-intermediate adult *B. j. calurus* along Rockport-Paradise Road, *Muhlenberg*, 1 January (BP).



Great Egret, *Ballard*  
16 December 2014  
Eddie Huber

**Rough-legged Hawk** – there were only three reports: 1 at the Eastpark Industrial Park, *Greenup*, 23-24 December (RCa, SFy); 1 along the Audubon Parkway ene. of Curdsville, w. *Daviess*, 4 January (JSo) and 1 at CVG 17-31 January (LM et al.).

**Golden Eagle** – there were reports from at least eight locales: a juv. continued at LBL, *Lyon*, into mid-December (ph. MC, HC, et al.); an ad. at Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison*, 14 December (GR et al.); a likely adult at Ballard WMA 16 December (BP, ph. SG, TG, EHu); single ads., perhaps the same individual, over the Long Creek Unit Barren River WMA, *Allen*, 18 January (MBy) and at Fountain Run, *Monroe*, 19 January (MBy); an ad. along Flatwood Road near Laurel River Lake, *Laurel*, 29 January (DCn); 2 and possibly 3 captured on a trail cam e. of Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 15 February (ph. SFr); and a juv. along Middle Fork Clarks River just s. of Murray, *Calloway*, 28 February (HC, ME). Review of trail cam photos revealed the presence of at least 3 at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, by mid-December (AB) and possibly as many as 7 total there during the season (KVo).

**Virginia Rail** – singles were heard at two traditional wintering locales in se. *Muhlenberg* and 2 were heard on the Ken Unit, all 1 January (BP).

**American Coot** – local peak counts of interest included 1300 on Cedar Creek Lake, *Lincoln* (TN), and 775 on Lake Reba, *Madison* (RBa, RFo), both 8 December, and 1600 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 4 January (HC et al.).

**Sandhill Crane** – a summary of the numbers at the state's two main wintering/staging areas follows. At Barren River Lake, 1200 were there by 1 December (WT) with 8600 there 8 December (WT), 5400 there 15 December (WT), 2300 there 22 December (WT), 5600 there 5 January (WT); 6800 there 12 January (WT), only 900+ there 9 February (WT), but a return of ca. 5000 birds 23 February (WT) due to the arrival of a period of frigid weather. West of Cecilia, 1500 were there by 4 December (CL), with 1200 there 4 January (JSo), only 33 there 6 January (EHa); 1700+ there 20 January (EHa), 4000 there 28 January (TN), initial peak counts of ca. 8000 there 2 February (EHa) and 12,100 there 4 February (CL) before a drop to 4400 there 10 February (EHa, AX), but a return to a new peak count for that locale of 15,300 on 24 February (EHa) as a result of the late February cold snap.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – a presumed early migrant was at Ballard WMA 10 February (GB).

**Dunlin** – 16 were reported on the Walnut Creek embayment of Barren River Lake 26 December (JF).

**Least Sandpiper** – again this year a few birds appeared to winter at Blood River (HC).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – reports of interest included 380 at Blood River 19 December (HC) and 1000 at Barren River Lake 2 January (MBy).

**Ring-billed Gull** – local peak counts of interest included ca. 1500 on the Ohio River at Louisville during late January and early February with 1000+ continuing into March (m. ob.); 3500 on Barren River Lake 1 December (MBy, JBy) with ca. 3000 there 2 January (MBy); an estimate of 20,000 on Ky Lake above the dam 15-

16 January (RD, BWu, et al.); 2750 at Cave Run Lake/Minor Clark 7 February (SP/RD); and 1000+ on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 17 January (BWu).

**California Gull** – an ad. was at the Falls of the Ohio 28 February–1 March (ph. BP, et al.). KBRC review required.

**Herring Gull** – noteworthy counts included 63 at Waitsboro (RD), 17 at Lexington Reservoirs #2/#3 (RO), and 19 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP et al.), all 14 January. Numbers increased dramatically on the Ohio River at Louisville during the latter part of January with the following impressive peak counts: 50+ on 15 January (BP, EHu); 100+ on 28 January (BP et al.); 580+ on 25 February (BP et al.); 500+ on 26 February (BP et al.); and 516+ on 28 February (BP et al.). Also quite impressive was an estimate of ca. 2000 at Ky Dam 15-16 January (RD, BWu, et al.) but with only 125-150 still there 12 February (BP, JBa).

**Thayer's Gull** – there were at least two reports: a third-year bird at Ky Dam 31 January/12 February (HC, JP/ph. BP, ph. JBa) that was pale enough that it could have been an intergrade with Iceland Gull; an ad. at Ky Dam 12 February (BP, ph. JBa) with perhaps the same individual lingering to 24/26 February (HC); and a second adult bird there 24 February (HC) that was either a paler Thayer's or perhaps the intergrade reported 16 January and noted in the next account.



Thayer's Gull (ad.), Ky Dam  
12 February 2015  
Jamie Baker

**Thayer's Gull x Iceland Gull** – an ad. that appeared to be an intergrade or a pale Thayer's Gull was present at Ky Dam 16 January (ph. BP, et al.); a first-year bird that appeared to be an intergrade was seen on the Ohio River at Louisville 2 February (†BP et al.).

**Iceland Gull** – there were two reports: a very pale wing-tipped first-year bird was present on the Ohio River at Louisville 28 January (†BP, RLa) with likely the same bird on the Ohio River at Louisville including at the Falls of the Ohio 22 February into March (BP, ph. JBa, et al.); and a first-year bird at Ky Dam 8-12 February (ph. HC, JP, et al.). KBRC review required.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – it was an unprecedented season for the species in central Kentucky with a summary of all reports included. On the Ohio River at Louisville, an ad. was first noted 2 December (EHu, JBa, BP) with an ad. there 15-28 January (BP, EHu, BWu, et al.), but with 3 (2 ads. and a second-year bird) there 30 January (BP et al.), 4 (2 ads. and 2 second-year birds) there 31 January (BP et al.), 2 ads. there 2 February (BP et al.); 3 (1 ad. and 2 second-year birds) there 4 February (BP et al.); a third-year bird there 17 February (BP, RLa); and an ad. continuing in the area including at the Falls of the Ohio on several dates to 28 February (BP et al.). Also reported was an ad. on the Ohio River at the mouth of the Licking River, *Kenton/Campbell*, 24 February (BWu); 1-2 in the general vicinity of Ky Dam (including Sledd Creek) 14 December through February (HC, ME.) with peak counts of 3 at Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 16 January (BP et al.) and 3 in the immediate vicinity of Ky Dam 24 February (HC).

**Glaucous Gull** – there were reports from two locales: an ad. on Ky Lake above the dam 15 January (ph. RD, SD); a first-year bird at Ky Dam 16-17 January (RD, BP, BWu, JBa, SG, TG) with possibly a second there 16 January (BWu, BP, JBa, et al.) and possibly one of the same birds there 12-15 February (BP, JBa, BM); and



2 first-year birds on the Ohio River at Louisville 28-31 January (†BP et al.) with an ad. and a third-year bird there 22 February into March (†BP, ph. BJ, et al.).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – there were reports from five locales: a first-year bird at Ky Dam 14 December (BLi, HC, ME); on the Ohio River at Louisville, a first-year bird was present 27-30 January (ph. BLo, et al.) with 2 first-year birds there 31 January (ph. BJ et al.) and 1 and possibly the second also continuing through February (BJ, BP, et al.) as evidenced by 2 first-year birds at the Falls of the Ohio 28 February (BP et al.); a second-year bird at Meldahl Dam 18 February (ph. JSt) with perhaps the same individual on the Ohio River at New Richmond, OH, *Campbell*, 23 February (DM); and a first-year bird on the Ohio River below Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 22 February (†LM).



Great Black-backed Gull (first-year)  
Ohio River at Louisville, 2 February 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**Forster's Tern** – as is the norm, a few birds lingered into early December at Jonathan Creek (HC) with a few apparently wintering at Blood River (HC, ME).

**Barn Owl** – there were four reports: 1 in s. *Todd* on the Elkton CBC 31 December (*fide* AT); 1 adjacent to Perry Battlefield State Park, *Boyle*, 17 January (SHk); 1 at the traditional nesting locale se. of Murray, *Calloway*, 13 February (HC, ME); and 1 along Sullivan Lane, n. *Franklin*, 27 February (ph.BDe).

**Short-eared Owl** – it was not a particularly good winter for the species, with reports

from only three locales: up to 4 at the Sinclair Unit 28 December–25 February (SG, TG, et al.); up to 7 (5 January [JSo]) at Sandy Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 14 December–18 January (CC, EM); and 2 at Spindletop Farm 27-28 February (ph. BWu et al.).

**Rufous Hummingbird** – the ad. female in s. *Scott* lingered into the first week of February (LH).

**Merlin** – there were reports from nearly twenty locales as follows: 1 wintered again this year at Cox's Park, Louisville (m. ob.) with 2 birds there 7 February (DSw, BWo, BBC); 1 along Frostburg Road, e. *Hopkins*, 3 December (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG); 1 at the Sinclair Unit 11 December–14 January (P&SF, SG, TG, BP); 1 just n. of Surrey Hills Farm, *Jefferson*, 14 December (ph. BP); 3 at different locales in suburban Lexington on the CBC there 20 December (SR, ph. DL, ph. JSo/ph. TN, JSw/DSv) with singles observed at different locales in Lexington 8 January (TLu) and 25 January (ph. TN); 1 at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 1 January (SW); 1 on the Somerset CBC 1 January (*fide* RD); 2 on the Ken Unit and a 3<sup>rd</sup> near Schulztown, s. *Ohio*, all 1 January (MS, EHu); 1 at the J.C. Jones Sinkhole Ponds, *Hart*, 3 January (JSo); 1 at Spindletop Farm 14 January–24 February (AX, RO, et al.); 1 along I-75 sw. of Sadieville, n. *Scott*, 16 January (AC); 1 at Honker Lake, LBL, *Lyon*, 27 January (ph. MC); 1 at CVG 31 January (JW); 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 10 February (MM); and 1 at Schochoh, *Logan*, 13 February (ph. ST).

**Peregrine Falcon** – birds reported away from known nesting territories included 2 at the now traditional wintering territory on the Ky Lake bridge w. of Fenton, *Trigg*, 2 December (MC, HC) and through the season; 1 at Jacobson Park 14 December (RO, ASK); 1 at McConnell Springs, *Fayette*, 17 January (MT); and 1 at Spindletop Farm 24 January (SM, RBr).

**Prairie Falcon** – 1, possibly the returning bird from last winter, was seen at the end of Frostburg Road, e. *Hopkins*, 3 Decem-



ber (TG, SG, ph. MY, JBa, BP). KBRC review required.

***Empidonax* sp.** – an *Empidonax* flycatcher was present at Green River State Forest, *Henderson*, 21-30 December (ph./vt. CC). Opinions regarding the identification of the bird have been mixed and it will likely remain unidentified.



*Empidonax* flycatcher, *Henderson*  
21 December 2014  
Charlie Crawford

**White-eyed Vireo** – after being initially observed during late November, the lingering or wintering individual on the Anchorage Trail, *Jefferson*, was also seen 21 December (PB, JBe) and 5 January (ph. PS).

**Fish Crow** – a calling bird at Ky Dam Village SRP 16 January (BP, ph. JBa, BWu, SG, TG) represented a first for the state during January.

**Horned Lark** – 300 at Spindletop Farm 17 February (TN, et al.) represented a modest peak count for the season.

**Tree Swallow** – a presumed tardy bird was at Ballard WMA 19-20 December (†GB); 1 at Jonathan Creek 24 February (HC) was the earliest returning bird to be reported.

**Black-capped Chickadee** – 3-4 were reported to be banded at Ashland, *Boyd*, late November–mid-December (RCa).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – the species was nearly absent this winter with single birds reported on only three CBCs and only a few additional reports (eBird data).

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** – 1-2 continued at the Ky Dam Village SRP territory through the season (m. ob.).

**Carolina Wren** – the harsh, late winter weather appeared to be hard on this species with a diminished number of reports during the latter part of February (m. ob.).

**House Wren** – there was one report: 1 on the Hopkinsville Greenway, *Christian*, 3 January (SHa *fide* DCs).

**Marsh Wren** – there was one report: 1 on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 1 January (BP).

**Eastern Bluebird** – the harsh, late winter weather appeared to be hard on those wintering with few reports during the latter part of February (m. ob.).

**Gray Catbird** – there were four reports: 2 on the Lexington CBC 20 December, 1 along Dry Branch Road, *Fayette* (†MT, KH) and 1 along Polo Club Blvd. on the se. side of Lexington (ph. TN, JSw); 1 along KY 565 nw. of Coburg, w. *Taylor*, 30 December (†RK); and 1 at the Pikeville City Lake, *Pike*, 17 January (†JBI).

**American Pipit** – a total of 305 along KY 102 between Elkton and Allensville, *Todd*, 31 December (RS), and 200 along KY 517 near Barren River Lake, *Allen*, 2 January (MBy) represented the peak counts for the season.

**Cedar Waxwing** – 250 at Morehead, *Rowan*, 3 December (BWu) represented an early season peak count; the species departed during mid-winter with very few reports during the late winter season and most of those in the sw. portion of the state.

**Lapland Longspur** – generally small numbers were present at traditional locales early in the season; a relatively modest wave arrived with the cold weather of

mid-winter; local peak counts included 90 a few miles se. of Adairville, s. *Logan*, 4 December (JA, TLa); a remarkable total of 3921 along KY 102 between Elkton and Allensville, *Todd*, 31 December (RS); and at least 100 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson*, 24 February (PB, JBe, et al.) with ca. 80 still there 25 February (BJ).

**Black-and-white Warbler** – 1 at Raven Run Sanctuary, *Fayette*, 20 December (†JC) was a first for the state during winter. Under KBRC review.

**Common Yellowthroat** – a female was observed adjacent to the Doe Valley Lake dam, *Meade*, 27 December (†EHu, JHu).

**Palm Warbler** – it was a poor season for wintering numbers with 1-2 reported on only two CBCs and singles reported at only a couple of additional locales during the season.

**Pine Warbler** – it was a poor season for wintering numbers with 1-2 reported on only three CBCs and singles reported at only a couple of additional locales during the season.

**American Tree Sparrow** – the species was widespread in small to moderate numbers during the season with 1-56 on 14 CBCs.

**Chipping Sparrow** – the species was present in relatively normal numbers for recent years with 1 to 17 on 15 CBCs.

**Vesper Sparrow** – there were two reports: 1 along Bethel Church Road, *McCracken*, 30 December (KMc, ph. BP); and 1 at the jct. of Wix Hollow Road and Highland Church Road, s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 16 February (MBy).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – a lingering bird near Dot, *Logan*, was last seen 8 December (ph. FL).

**Le Conte's Sparrow** – there were two reports: 2 on the former Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*, 1 January (BP); and 1 along the Middle Fork Clarks River just s. of Murray, *Calloway*, 13 February (HC, ME).

**Harris's Sparrow** – an ad. was present near Dot, *Logan*, 8 December into March (ph. FL et al.). KBRC review required.

**Dark-eyed Junco** – a very nicely marked "Oregon Junco" was present at Long Run Park, *Jefferson*, 2 February (ph. KB).

**Eastern Meadowlark** – a flock of 86 along Red Hill Road, *Allen*, 21 February (MBy) was quite impressive.

**Rusty Blackbird** – reports of interest included 95 at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 14 December (JMg); 40 at Cave Lake, *Wayne*, 18 December (RD); and 200 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 20 January (CC).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – there were five reports: 8-10 along Frostburg Road, e. *Hopkins*, 3 December (BP, JBa, MY, SG, TG); 20 adjacent to Sauerheber 4 December (†DSi); and 6 along Sinking Creek ne. of Adairville, *Logan*, 6 January (ph. RD) with 5 there 10 January (RFa, MBi).

**Common Redpoll** – 2 (a male and a female) were first seen in a Lexington yard during mid-January with the female seen by many and lingering into March (AH, CV, et al.). KBRC review required.

**Purple Finch** – the species lingered through the season in small numbers with 1-19 on 14 CBCs constituting a relatively normal winter presence for recent years.

**Pine Siskin** – a second wave of birds arrived during early December with moderate numbers remaining locally distributed into late December with small numbers lingering through the season; most were reported at feeding stations with the highest numbers in e. Kentucky (e.g., *Johnson* [TLu] and *Pike* [JBI] [eBird data]).

#### Addenda to the Fall 2014 Report:

**Black Scoter** – a female/imm. was on Barren River Lake 14 November (†RD).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – 1600 were on Barren River Lake 14 November (RD).

#### Addenda to the Summer 2013 Report:

**American Bittern** – quite unusual was 1 observed in flight along Mosby Ridge Rd, e. of Edmonton, *Metcalf*, 11 June (†RD).

**Lark Sparrow** – 1 was observed along Old Glasgow Road s. of Horse Cave, *Barren*, 1 June (ph. RD).

**Observers:** Jim Arnett (JA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TB), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Andrew Berry (AB), Carol Besse (CBs), Melissa Bishop (MBi), Josh Blackmon (JBl), Karen Bonsell (KB), Dustin Brewer (DBr), David Brown (DBn), Rhonda Bryant (RBr), Gerald Burnett (GB), Ron Canterbury (RCa), Beverly Carrico (BC), Robert Chadwick (RCh), David Chaffin (DCn), Hap Chambers (HC), Allen Chartier (AC), David Chiles (DCs), Robert Colvis (RCo), Lisa Combs (LCo), John Cox (JC), Charlie Crawford (CC), David Crouch (DCr), Melodie Cunningham (MC), Lloyd Curry (LCu), Brian Davis (BDa), Brenda Dean (BDe), Roseanna Denton (RD), Steve Denton (SD), Dan Dolack (DD), Melissa Easley (ME), Tom Edwards (TEd), Terri Estes (TEs), Rand Falls (RFa), J.C. Finch (JF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Rob Foster (RFo), Steve Fraley (SFy), Scott Freidhof (SFr), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Joe Hall (JHa), Scott Hall (SHa), Scott Hankla (SHk), Erin Harper (EHa), Richard Healy (RH), Kevin Hopper (KH), Alice Howell (AH), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JHu), Lori Hudson (LH), Brian Johnson (BJ), Richie Kessler (RK), Janet Kiser (JK), Tony Lance (TLa), Rob Lane (RLa), David Lang (DL), Marjorie Lehman (MLe), Roger Lemaster (RLe), Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Charlie Logsdon (CL), Brian Lowry (BLo), Terri Lusk (TLu), Mikey Lutmerding (MLu), Frank Lyne (FL), Scott Marsh (SM), Kelly McKay (KMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Elizabeth McWilliams (EM), Bob Meier (BM), John Meredig (JMc), Keith Michalski (KMi), Mark Monroe (MM), Donald Morse, Jr. (DM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Sydney Penner (SP), Michael Plaster (MP), Charlie Plush (CP), Joshua Powell (JP), David Pritchard (DP), Spencer Reinhard (SR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Vicki Sandag  (VS), Damien Simbeck (DSi), Jeff Sole (JSO), Pam Spaulding (PS), Jack Stenger (JSt), Dave Stewart (DSw), Matt Stickel (MS), Ruben Stoll (RS), Del Striegel (DSt), Dave Svetich (DSv), Joe Swanson (JSw), Wayne Tamminga (WT), Mark Tower (MT), Alan Troyer (AT), Steve Tyson (ST), Kayla Veitch (KVe), Carl Vogel (CV), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MWa), Sean Ward (SW), James Wheat (JW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Mike Wright (MWr), Brian Wulker (BWu), Antonio Xeira (AX), Mary Yandell (MY), Thomas Young (TY).

### **K.O.S. SPRING 2015 MEETING**

#### **Cumberland Falls State Resort Park**

**April 24-26, 2015**

Blaine R. Ferrell

Pat and Jane Bell led a field trip at 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Vice President Pat Bell called the Friday evening meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She welcomed everyone and recognized new members from Greenville, Lexington, Bowling Green, and Hopkinsville, as well as a student from Eastern Kentucky University. Pat turned the meeting over to President Steve Kistler who presented a diabolical bird quiz. He showed a small piece of each bird and challenged the audience to identify it.

Pat Bell introduced the speaker, Kate Heyden of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR). She gave a presentation titled "Barn Owls in Kentucky: Current Management and Research". Barn Owls are a rare species in Kentucky and are listed as species of greatest conservation need in Kentucky's State Wildlife Action Plan. The KDFWR has been working with Barn Owls since the 1990s with more intense research and management beginning in 2010. Ms. Heyden discussed the past, present and future conservation and management efforts. The pre-settlement population was likely limited but as land was cleared their numbers rose. Data from Mengel's "Birds of Kentucky" implied they were once widespread and common, but by the 1990s the Barn Owl had become rare. Clean farming practices and environmental contaminants may have led to their decline, despite the availability of suitable habitat. Reintroduction efforts have not been successful. More success has been achieved through a program providing nest boxes. After placing numerous boxes in preferred habitats, the number of pairs almost doubled between 2010 and 2013. The KDFWR is currently tracking Barn Owls using radio transmitters and is testing carcasses for contaminants to further our understanding of the species and its conservation needs. Ms. Heyden acknowledged and thanked the Beckham Bird Club and KOS

along with two Kentucky Audubon chapters for their financial support of the Barn Owl radio-telemetry tracking efforts.

Pat Bell announced the field trips that would begin at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning and introduced each leader. Lee McNeely would lead a field trip along the Cumberland Falls Trail; Blaine Ferrell would lead a trip along Trail 2; Rob Lane would lead a trip along Trail 4, and Steve Kistler would lead a beginners trip to the Campground.

Saturday afternoon field trips included a plant and flower walk to be led by Steve Kistler and Park Naturalist Steve Gilbert that would leave the lodge at 1:30 p.m.; a trip along the road to the Campground led by Win Ahrens; and a trip along Dog Slaughter Road led by Carol Besse beginning at 2 p.m. The Friday evening meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. and was followed by a social hour.

The Saturday evening meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m. President Steve Kistler opened the meeting, welcomed the large group, and encouraged those in attendance to urge others to join KOS and attend meetings. Steve introduced Linda Craiger, membership chairperson, and thanked her for her work. He mentioned the new KOS display that Mary Yandell designed and had produced for use at events to recruit members. He thanked Mary and encouraged members to use it in recruiting members. Steve next introduced Hap Chambers who explained that promises have not been kept with regard to land acquisition for the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in western Kentucky. Hap asked KOS members to write their Congressional representatives to ask them to honor the legislative promise to set aside more land for this refuge. She offered a letter for members to use. Steve announced that the Fall 2015 meeting will be at Barren River State Resort Park. Two new Councilors will be elected at that meeting and Steve encouraged members to send nominations to him. Carol Besse asked the audience to recognize Steve's work on revamping the KOS web site, which they did with enthusiasm.

Blaine Ferrell led the compilation of the day's bird list. Members observed a total of 78 species with an additional two birds, a cuckoo and an *Accipiter* listed as unidentified species. Steve Kistler introduced the evening speaker, Chris Wood, who presented a talk on "Bird Migration, Birding, and Conservation." Chris is the project leader for eBird and Neotropical Birds at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. He is also head of Team Sapsucker, which will be competing to raise funds for the lab on the Global Big Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>. In 2013, Team Sapsucker observed 294 species in 24 hours in Texas and set a new record. Chris is a leading authority and has published several articles on bird identification. In his presentation he explained how we use birds to understand the natural world and ecosystems. He talked about various migratory routes, eruptions in certain years, and how conservation begins with understanding abundance and movement across broad geographic areas and long periods of time. He explained the idea behind eBird was to use volunteers to collect data that can then be used to address conservation issues. Hiring professional staff to gather data on such a massive scale is far too expensive. Cornell Lab and others are using the data for computer modeling to link with information on land cover and climate in collaboration with NASA and the XSEDE super computer to test conservation outcomes. The Nature Conservancy is looking into how to merge human needs with bird needs so they can co-exist. Chris mentioned the Global Big Day which is sponsored by the Cornell Lab and will seek to see how many birds can be tallied globally in a single day. He also discussed the various strategies Cornell Lab is using to monetize eBird in order to make it sustainable. Currently all data are free and downloadable. He also introduced a new effort, Merlin, an eBird powered online tool and smart phone app, to help people with bird identification.

Jeff Sole urged more people to become involved in eBird. The Nature Conservancy, where Jeff works, is trying to get Kentucky farmers to help manage water levels for shorebirds similar to a program used in California. He indicated that Kentucky needs more eBird data before they can implement this concept. Steve Kistler thanked Pat Bell for her work in putting together the meeting which was also acknowledged by the audience.



Pat Bell announced the field trips for Sunday at 8:00 a.m. Jeff Sole would lead a trip of approximately three miles looping around the lodge. Roseanna Denton would lead a trip to the old fire tower on Pinnacle Knob and along a section of Dog Slaughter Road. David Lang would lead a trip along Trail 4, the Civilian Conservation Corps Memorial Trail. The Saturday evening meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m. and was followed by a social hour. Saturday night storms yielded to a nice morning on Sunday with the additional of several species on the morning's field trips.

#### Attendance at the Spring 2015 K.O.S. Meeting

Alexandria:	Mary Beth & Ron Lusby
Bowling Green:	Valerie Brown, Lisa Dalporto, Blaine Ferrell, John Forman, Ken Kuehn, Marilyn Mattingly
Burlington:	Lee & Lynda McNeely
Frankfort:	Jeff Sole
Georgetown:	David Lang
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger, Grace Waller
Greenville:	Steve & Teresa Graham, Brenda Pendley
Hopkinsville:	Sarah Bell
Independence:	Derek Iles, Don Martin
Lawrenceburg:	Kate Heyden
Lexington:	Ramesh & Suzanne Bhatt, James Hodge, David & Terri Lusk, Marie Sutton, Joe Swanson, Jim Williams, Antonio Xeira
Louisville:	Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Dick & Kathy Dennis, Cheryl & Scott Jones, Rob Lane, Ben & Mary Yandell
Morehead:	Fred Busroe, Katie Busroe
Murray:	Hap Chambers, Bonnie & Sam McNeely
Munfordville:	Steve Kistler
Owensboro:	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Richmond:	Dustin Brewer, Brenda & Pete Thompson
Science Hill:	Roseanna Denton
Somerset:	Gay Hodges
Upton:	Bonnie & Sam Avery
Floyd Knobs, IN:	Colleen & Tom Becker

#### Birds Observed at the KOS Spring Meeting at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park and Vicinty, April 24-26, 2015

The following species were observed by KOS members during the weekend of 24-26 April 2015 at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park and vicinity: Wild Turkey, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, *Accipiter* sp., Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, cuckoo sp., Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Blackburnian Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The total number of species was 90.





Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco, Jefferson Co.  
2 February 2015  
Karen Bonsell



Common Redpoll, Lexington  
28 February 2015  
Mary Yandell



White-eyed Vireo, Jefferson Co.  
5 January 2015  
Pam Spaulding



Iceland Gull (first-year), Kentucky Dam  
12 February 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Red-throated Loon (juv.), Gallatin Co.  
15 January 2015  
Eddie Huber



Vesper Sparrow, McCracken Co.  
30 December 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

SPRING 2015 SEASON, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely.....	63
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	78

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August, and November, *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Current membership categories and corresponding dues follow: Regular (\$15.00); Contributing (\$25.00); Student (\$10.00); Family (\$20.00); and Life (\$300.00). Direct manuscripts and communications to the editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Make requests for back issues to the Corresponding Secretary.

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## THE COVER

We thank Andy Bess for the image of the Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) taken 2 March 2015 on the Ohio River waterfront off Covington, Kenton County (see p. 66). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## SPRING 2015 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during spring 2015 were somewhat variable. Temperatures during the three-month period were not far from average, although slightly cooler-than-normal during March and slightly warmer-than-normal during April and May. Precipitation was quite variable during the period, however; March was very wet, with major stations recording about one and one-half to two times normal rainfall. Paducah was the most extreme, recording more than two times normal precipitation. April continued to be abnormally wet, especially across the central and eastern portions of the state, where Louisville and Jackson recorded two and one-half times normal rainfall and three times normal rainfall, respectively. In contrast, May turned dry with major stations recording three-quarters to about one-half normal precipitation and Jackson setting a record with only about one-third normal rainfall. The period of wet weather during March and April was significant enough to cause a brief appearance of the transient lakes in southern Warren County, but they disappeared during early June.

Rarity highlights during the season included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, a few rare waterfowl, loons, and gulls continuing from the winter season, Western Grebe, several Whimbrel, Ruff, multiple Harris's Sparrows, and continuing Common Redpoll.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

**Abbreviations** – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vr.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with recordings of call notes or song; “†” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Adkins Swamp, Sinclair Unit, Muhlenberg; Anchorage Trail, e. Jefferson; Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren (unless otherwise noted); Beckley Creek Park, e. Jefferson; Berea, Madison; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Cecilia, Hardin; Cedar Creek Lake, Lincoln; Cherokee Park, Louisville; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Eastpark Industrial Park, Greenup/Boyd; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; Jacobson Park, Lexington; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Kentucky Dam Village [SRP], Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Old Kuttawa Rec. Area, Lyon; Lake Barkley, Lyon/Trigg; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Reba, Madison; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; LBL Nature Station, Lyon/Trigg; Lentz Pond, along River Road below the mouth of Goose Creek, Jefferson, Lexington, Fayette; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, Pulaski; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. Fulton; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson (unless otherwise noted); McElroy Lake, s. Warren; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, s. Jefferson; s. of Middleton, transient ponds along J. Ferguson Road, s. of Middleton, Simpson; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; Mud Creek = Mud Creek floodplain at KY 94, e. of Hickman, Fulton; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; nw. of Powderly = Muhlenberg County Rail-Trail section s. of Western Ky. Parkway, nw. of Powderly, Muhlenberg; Obion WMA, n. of

Hickman, *Fulton*; *Open Pond*, w. *Fulton*; *Owsley Fork Lake*, *Madison/Jackson*; *Parsons Pond* (formerly KY 739 Pond) = transient lake e. of KY 739 e. of Licksillet, sw. *Logan*; *Pond Creek Bottoms*, along KY 85 ne. of Anton, *Hopkins*; *Pope Lick Park* (formerly Floyds Fork Park), *Jefferson*; *Rock Bridge* = Rock Bridge Loop Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*; *Sandy Watkins Park*, *Henderson*; *Sauerheber* = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; *Sinclair Unit*, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; *Spindletop Farm* = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*; *SNP* = State Nature Preserve; *SP* = State Park; *SRP* = State Resort Park; *Stone Place Stables*, along the Ohio River nw. of Prospect, ne. *Jefferson*; *Surrey Hills Farm*, ne. *Jefferson*; *Walton Pond*, s. *Warren*; *WMA* = Wildlife Management Area.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** – 1 was present at Lake Reba, *Madison*, 18 April–19 May (ph. KWa, DHr, et al.). KBRC review required.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – reports of interest included 20 n. of Worthington, *Oldham*, 4 March (PB, JBe); 1 at Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); at least 26 w. of Cecilia 8 March (MY); 400 still at Sauerheber 8 March (KMi); 37 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 15 March (TG, SG); 1 at the Burnside Marina, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*, 19 March/5 April (DMc/RD); and 1 at Minor Clark 19 April (ph. DSv, LCo).

**Cackling Goose** – there were two reports: 6 at Spindletop Farm 1 March (DSv) with 2 last reported there 2 March (SP) and 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 9 March (BPa et al.).

**Snow Goose** – 500 were still at Sauerheber 9 March (KMi); in excess of 10,000 were still in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 11 March (HC); other reports of interest included 80 at Barren River Lake 2 March with probably the same group se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 March (MBy, MkB); 23 n. of Worthington, *Oldham* 4 March (PB, JBe); and 500 over sw. *Logan* 5 March (FL).

**Ross's Goose** – reports of interest included 2 at Barren River Lake 2 March with probably the same 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 March (MBy, MkB); 1 w. of Cecilia 8 March (ph. MY); 4 at McElroy Lake 8 March (TD) with 3 there 22 March (TD); either a Ross's or a hybrid Ross's x Snow upstream from the mouth of Goose Creek 11 March (ph. RFa et al.); 8 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 24 March (JBa, ph. BPa,

TG); and 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 31 March (HC, AN).

**Mute Swan** – a few birds continued from the winter season at scattered sites into mid-March; the "wild" resident pair at Adkins Swamp had 4 cygnets in their company 12 May (EH).

**Tundra Swan** – reports of interest included 2 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg*, 15 March (ph. SG, TG) and 2 last seen at Sauerheber 4 April (CC).

**Gadwall** – modest local peak counts included 300 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); at least 200 sw. of Semiway, *McLean*, 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); and 200 at Sauerheber 28 March (KMi). A pair that lingered at Spindletop Farm to 14 May (DSv, SP, et al.) and a pair that lingered at Twin Lakes Subdivision, Somerset, *Pulaski*, to 17 May (RD) were the latest to be reported.

**American Wigeon** – local peak counts included 50 along the Ohio River near the mouth of Goose Creek 8 March (BPa et al.) with 70 there 9 March (BPa et al.); 50 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); and 50 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG). Three at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 5 May (JSo); a pair at McElroy Lake 8 May (TD); and 1 at Cove Spring Park, *Franklin*, 23 May (ph. RC) were the latest to be reported.

**Blue-winged Teal** – local peak counts of interest included 250 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSo); 300 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 150 still there 15 April (CC); 100 on Lentz Pond 3 April (C&KHo); ca. 250 in the vicinity of Morgan Pond 5 April (BPa, JBa); 200 at McElroy Lake (SK, JK) and 200 along US 431, *Daviess*



(TG, SG), both 11 April; 106 at Long Point 17 April (HC); and 825 at Mud Creek 17 April (HC) with 600 still there 22 April (JSO) and 175 there 28 April (HC). Small numbers lingered at McElroy Lake and at Morgan Pond into late May without evidence of successful nesting (m. ob.).

**Blue-winged Teal x Northern Shoveler** – a male was present on Lentz Pond 27 March (ph. BPa, JBa).

**Northern Shoveler** – local peak counts of interest included 200 sw. of Semiway, *McLean*, and 200 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, both 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); 500 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 400 there 2 April (KMi); and ca. 200 at McElroy Lake 11 April (SK, JK) with 10-12 still there 15 May (TD, BPa, MM). Two at Minor Clark 22 May (TLu); and 3 at McElroy Lake (BPa, CBs), a male at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette* (AX), and a pair at Jacobson Park (KWa), all 24 May, were the latest to be reported.

**Northern Pintail** – 17 were on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 March (BPa et al.) with an impressive total of 335 in a flooded field near the mouth of Goose Creek, ne. *Jefferson*, 7 March (BPa et al.) but only about 30 there the following day (BPa et al.). Other peak counts of interest included 200 at Barren River Lake 2 March (MBy, MkB); 350 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 175 at Mud Creek (HC) and 350 at McElroy Lake (JSO), both 11 March; and 400 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, and another 100 se. of Vandetta, *Hopkins*, both 15 March (TG, SG).

**Green-winged Teal** – local peak counts of interest included 200 at McElroy Lake 11 March (JSO); 110 at the Leo Pitt Moist Soils Unit, s. *Allen*, 15 March (MBy); 150 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg*, 15 March (TG, SG); and 200 at Sauerheber 29 March (JMg);

**Canvasback** – local peak counts included at least 200 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.); 270 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 11 March (JSO); and 125 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). A

female on McElroy Lake 25 April (BPa, CW, BWu) and 2 on Open Pond 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG) were the latest to be reported.

**Redhead** – at least 620 were on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) with 400+ there 9 March (BPa et al.), but an impressive local peak count of ca. 1000 was there 11 March (BPa et al.); also of interest was a flock of 300 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). Two males on Morgan Pond 3 May (HC, JH) and a pair on Cedar Creek Lake 22 May (RFO, RB) were the latest to be reported.

**Ring-necked Duck** – peak counts of interest included 250 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 275 on Owsley Fork Lake 8 March (RB, RFO); at least 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) with ca. 400 there 11 March (BPa et al.); 250 on a pond along Iron Works Pike, n. *Fayette*, 9 March (JSO); 600 at Kuttawa (JSO) and at least 1000 on McElroy Lake (JSO), both 11 March; 200 on the Ohio River, *Campbell* (JW), and 200 w. of Graham, *Muhlenberg* (SG, TG), both 15 March; 200 near the mouth of Big Bone Creek, *Boone*, 21 March (LM); 400+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); and 200 at Sauerheber 28 March (KMi); Three lingered at McElroy Lake to 23 May (DSv et al.) with a pair last seen there 28 May (VS); a male was still at Morgan Pond 24 May (BPa, CBs).

**Greater Scaup** – local peak counts of interest included at least 100 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.) and 110 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 15 March (JW). Lingered birds included a female in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26/30 April (BPa, CW, BWu/BPa) and a male, perhaps injured, that lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville to 29 May (TBa, ph. BPa).

**Lesser Scaup** – local peak counts of interest included at least 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 8 March (BPa et al.); 350 on Ky Lake above the dam and 1200 at Kuttawa, both 11 March (JSO); 225 total on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, 21 March



White-winged Scoters (60 of 61), Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*  
8 March 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(BPa, BWu); 500 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, and 1000+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms, both 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG). Tardy birds included 1 on Lake Reba (AC) and 2 at Minor Clark (VS), both 18 May; 1 at Jacobson Park 22 May (DSv, LCo); and 2 males at Camp #9 on 24 May (BPa, CBs).

**Surf Scoter** – 1-2 continued along the Ohio River at Louisville and were seen at various points to 19 March (DSt et al.) with 1 last seen there 20 March (SW); the only other reports were for 1 on Cedar Creek Lake 13 March (ph. RD); an imm. male opposite Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 26 March (ph. BWu); and a pair on the Ohio River off Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 26 March (SCI).

**White-winged Scoter** – small numbers (1-4) lingered from the winter season at a couple of locales on the Ohio River at Louisville into mid-March (m. ob.) with peak counts of 6 there 7 March (AM, BPi); 11 there 16 March (DC); 18 total at a few different locales there 18 March (BPa et al.), and 18 + 3 last seen there 23 March (RFa). Also present were 61 on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*, 8-9 March (BPa et al.) with 55 still there 12 March (AM); 1 on Owsley Fork Lake 8/15 March (RB, RFo); 4 on the Ohio River opposite Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 8 March (BWu, GW) with 26 counted in the same area astride the OH/KY state line 12 March (FR); 10 on the Ohio River off

Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 13 March (SCI); 34 on the Ohio River upstream of Higginsport, OH, *Bracken*, 17 March (SCI); a total of 56 on the Ohio River from Mel-dahl Dam upstream to below Ripley, OH, *Bracken/Mason*, 21 March (BPa, BWu); and 6 at Waitsboro 26 March (ph. RD).

**Black Scoter** – the wintering imm. male on the Ohio River at Louisville lingered to 23 March (TBa, m. ob.); an ad. male was in the company of the large flock of White-wingeds on the Ohio River at Six-Mile Island, *Jefferson*, 8-12 March (ph. BPa et al.).

**Long-tailed Duck** – there were reports from six locales: an ad. male on the Ohio River at Covington, *Kenton*, 1-4 March (FR et al.); an ad. male on Lake Linville 21 March (ph. JSo, CS); an ad. male on Lexington Reservoir #2 on 23 March (ph. RO et al.); a female/imm. at Sauerheber 4 April (BY, ph. MY) with surely the same individual nearby on the slough along KY 268 nw. of Sauerheber 6-11 April (ph. CC et al.); an ad. male on Lake Liberty, *Cassey*, 16 April (ph. RD); and a remarkably tardy imm. male at Kuttawa 2 May (†BPa, TQ).

**Bufflehead** – local peak counts of interest included 100 at Kuttawa 11 March (JSo) and at least 50 on McElroy Lake 5 April (BPa, JBa). A female on Morgan Pond to 28 April (RD) and a pair on Ky Lake

above the dam and 3 at Kuttawa (BP<sub>a</sub>, TQ), all 2 May, were the latest to be reported.

**Common Goldeneye** – at least 50 lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville into the first few days of March (m. ob.); 125 were counted at Kuttawa 11 March (JS<sub>o</sub>); single males on Lake Barkley above the dam and at Kuttawa, both 2 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, TQ) were the latest to be reported.

**Hooded Merganser** – females with broods of young were observed at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 12 May (JP<sub>o</sub>); along the Mississippi River levee wsw. of Hickman, *Fulton*, 14 May (ph. JT); at Long Point 7 May (ph. JMr); and at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 7+ May (AS et al.).

**Common Merganser** – small numbers continued from the winter season at several locales; reports of interest included 26 on Barren River Lake 3 March (MBy, M<sub>k</sub>B); 93 at Fishing Creek 4 March (RD) with 83 still there 7 March (RD); 45 on Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 18 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 8 March (LCo) with 22 there 11 March (RO); and 80 on the Ohio River off Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, 13 March (SCI). One ene. of Science Hill, *Pulaski*, 3 April (ph. RD) and 3 on Russell Fork, Elkhorn City, *Pike*, 11 April (ph. JBl) were the latest to be reported.

**Red-breasted Merganser** – 3 at Minor Clark 3 May (JS<sub>o</sub>); 3 on Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (MY, BY); and 1 on the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 12 May (JSu) were the latest to be reported.

**Ruddy Duck** – 70 were still on Lexington Reservoirs #2 & #3 on 9 March (RO); 70 were still at Jonathan Creek 20 March (HC, ME). Other reports of interest included at least 50 on McElroy Lake 5 April (TD, BP<sub>a</sub>, JB<sub>a</sub>) with a pair lingering there to 28 May (JH).

**Red-throated Loon** – there were three reports: the bird found on the Ohio River at Louisville during late February lingered to 1 March (ph. BJ, et al.); 2 were on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 2 March (†LCu); and a very tardy individual was on Lake Bark-

ley above the dam, *Lyon*, 2 May (†BP<sub>a</sub>, TQ, MQ).

**Common Loon** – 76 at Waitsboro and 11 at Fishing Creek, both 3 April (RD) represented the season's peak count. Singles on Ky Lake above the dam 9 May (MY, BY), on a gravel pit s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 May (LM); on the Ohio River at Louisville 11 May (BP<sub>a</sub>); at Kuttawa 16 May (KM<sub>i</sub>); and at Jacobson Park 17/19 May (AX/DSv) were the latest to be reported.

**Pied-billed Grebe** – small numbers lingered at McElroy Lake and Morgan Pond well into May with nest building observed at both but without evidence of successful nesting (m. ob.).

**Western Grebe** – 1 was reported at Morgan Pond 27 March (†DMo). KBRC review required.

**Horned Grebe** – local peak counts of interest included 46 on the Ohio River at the mouth of Sugar Creek, *Gallatin*, 22 March (LM); 60 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 24 March (RD); 60 on the Ohio River, *Campbell*, 25 March (JW); and 53 on McElroy Lake 5 April (TD, BP<sub>a</sub>, JB<sub>a</sub>). One at KenLake SRP, *Marshall*, 4 May (IH) was the latest to be reported.

**American White Pelican** – local peak counts included 500 at Blood River 17 March (HC) and 750 at Jonathan Creek 25 March (HC). Reports away from the LBL region included 3 on Lake Buck/Lake Vega, Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 15/16 March (†KM<sub>o</sub>, JSu/JSu); 23 on the Ohio River opposite Dayton, *Campbell*, 26 March (ph. SCr); 3 over the Cape Hills Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 8 April (CC); 1 over Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 4 May (LE, CLa, et al.); and 3 on the Ohio River at Louisville 23 May (ph. BP<sub>a</sub> et al.). Small numbers, some probably injured, lingered on Lake Barkley into late May (m. ob.).

**American Bittern** – there were reports from four locales: at least 3 and probably 4 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 12 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, ph. SG, BBC); 1 at Beckley Creek Park 9 & 23-24 April (ph. TBa et al.); 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 11 April

(LM); and 1 at Spindletop Farm 6 May (DSv).

**Least Bittern** – there were reports from five locales: singles heard at White City WMA, e. of Mortons Gap, *Hopkins*, 28 April/12 May (EH); singles heard at Adkins Swamp 28/29 April (TG, SG/EH) and 22 May (EH); 1-3 heard nw. of Powderly 30 April-5 May (TG, SG, et al.); 1 heard at Clear Creek WMA, *Hopkins*, 11 May (EH) with 3 heard there 21 May (EH); and 1 heard at Sauerheber 12 May (CP).

**Great Egret** – 1 at Guthrie Swamp 30 March (JH) and 2 at Melco 31 March (BP a et al.) were the earliest to be reported. Local peak counts of interest included 22 at Melco 29 April (BP a); 30 at the Falls of the Ohio 29 May (BP a); and an impressive tally of 80 birds at the heronry at Kuttawa 13 April (JSo).

**Snowy Egret** – the species was unreported away from w. Kentucky.

**Little Blue Heron** – the species was unreported away from w. Kentucky.

**Cattle Egret** – there were only two reports away from the LBL region: 1 at Morgan Pond 30 April (BP a) and 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 15 May (WG, ph. PS, et al.).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – 13 at Mason's Island, Barren River Lake, *Barren*, 8 May (MBy, JBy) suggest the possibility of nesting there or nearby.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – there were only four reports: 7 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 10 May (BY, MY); an ad. at Shippingport Island 11 May (BP a); 1 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 27 May (CC); and 2 at the slough w. of the Ky Dam tailwater 30 May (DSv).

***Plegadis ibis*** – there were two reports of unidentified dark ibis: 2 at Mud Creek 18 April (ph. JT) and 1 at Minor Clark 29 May (ph. SBa).

**Osprey** – 1 at Ky Dam 7 March (HC) was the earliest to be reported.

**Golden Eagle** – there were three reports: 1 was last seen at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*,

13 March (KV); a juv. n. of Kirkwood in extreme n. *Mercer* in early March and again 3-4 April (ph. JSp); and a juv. at LBL, *Lyon*, 15 April (AY, TJ).

**Mississippi Kite** – there were several reports from Louisville including returning nesting birds at St. Matthews by 8 May (MCn); 1-2 at Cherokee Park 9+ May (BP a, MW, JBa, et al.); 1 over Strathmoor Manor 10 May (JBa); and 1 over Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP a). Also of interest were 6 at the Sinclair Unit 29 April (EH); 1 at Central City, *Muhlenberg*, 11 May (SN); and 1 w. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, 31 May (TG).

**Broad-winged Hawk** – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 2 April (MBy); 1 at Owsley Fork Lake 4 April (RFo, RBa); and 1 over Mt. Victory, *Pulaski*, and 2 at Little Lick, both 4 April (RD), were the earliest to be reported. A total of 43 were seen passing over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 9 April (MM), but independent counts of 118 (MY) and 81 (MM) were tallied from there 19 April.

**Virginia Rail** – there were two reports: 1 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 12 April (BP a, BBC) and 1 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, 26 April (BP a, CW).

**Sora** – 6+ were at Sauerheber 12 April (BP a, BBC); 1 at Spindletop Farm 13/14 May (AX/SP) was the latest to be reported.

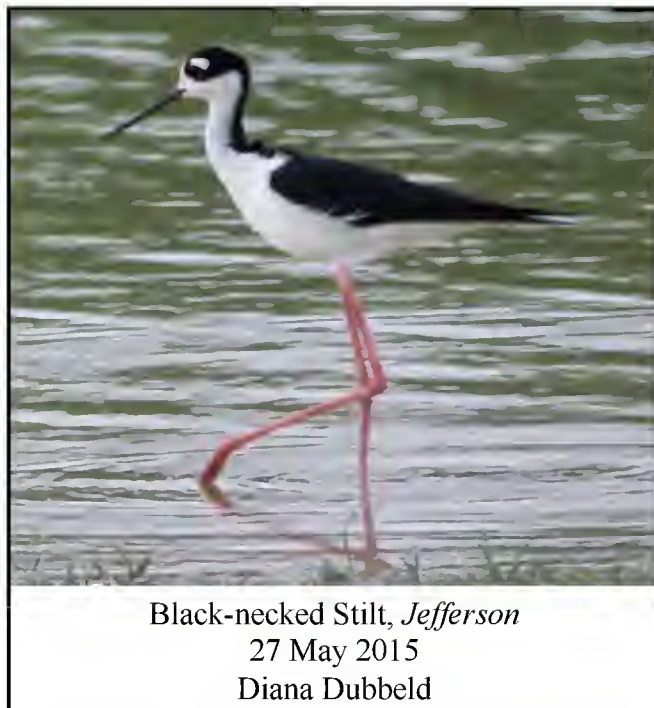
**Common Gallinule** – the only report was for 2 at Adkins Swamp 29 April (EH).

**American Coot** – local peak counts included 350 on Cedar Creek Lake 18 March (CF); 750 sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 24 March (BP a, JBa); 500 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 24/31 March (BP a, JBa/JSo); 3000 at McElroy Lake 24 March (RD) with 850 still there 18 April (RD), 390 still there 25 April (CW, BWu, BP a), 300 still there 30 April (BP a), and 40 still there 23 May (DSv, RD, et al.); 1500 at Sauerheber 27 March (CC) with 2500 there 7 April (RD); 300 at Lake Reba 19 April (RBa, RFo); and 350 still at Morgan Pond 30 April (BP a) with 7 still there 24 May (BP a, CBs).



**Sandhill Crane** – impressive peak counts of 13,436 and 14,570 were tallied w. of Cecilia 2 March (EH) and 11 March (CLO) respectively, but only about 500 were still there 12 March (SP). Additional peak counts of interest included a flight of ca. 500 total over Ballard WMA 12 March (GB) that likely represented a record high count for the locale, and 600-700 at McElroy Lake 8 March (TD). One over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 9 April (MM) and 2 over Mammoth Cave 21 April (SK, JK) were the latest to be reported.

**Black-necked Stilt** – 1 at Mud Creek and 2 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 10 April (BY) were the earliest to be reported; up to 19 (8 May [TG, SG]) were present in the Lower Hickman Bottoms during May (m. ob.). Reports away from the Mississippi River floodplain included 1 nw. of Newtown, *Scott*, 16 April (ph. MH); 2 at Parsons Pond 3 May (ph. FL); 2 at McElroy Lake 3 May (TD) with 4 there 5 May (LCr, TD, et al.) and up to 8 (18 May [TD]) present there during the month with at least 1 pair incubating [but eventually unsuccessful] there during late May (TD) and 3 last seen there 31 May (TD); 2 at Sauerheber 4-11 May (KMi, CP); 2 s. of Middleton 4-19 May (ph. RD, TG, SG, et al.); 1 at Jacobson Park 5 May (ph. LCo, DSv, et al.); 2 at Sandy Watkins Park 5 May (ph. CC); and 1 at Louisville Trackside off Preston Highway 27-28 May (ph. DD et al.) that was a long overdue first for *Jefferson*.



Black-necked Stilt, *Jefferson*  
27 May 2015  
Diana Dubbeld

**American Avocet** – there were three reports: 48 at Morgan Pond 18 April (ph. CH, JH); 6 at Louisville Trackside off Preston Highway 27-30 April (ph. DD et al.) with 5 still there 1 May (BPa), and 1 last seen there 2 May (TBe, CBe); 1 at Sauerheber 11-13 May (CP, ph. SG, TG); and 1 at McElroy Lake 12 May (TD).

**Black-bellied Plover** – reports of interest included 3 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BL); 17 at Open Pond 9 May (BY, MY) with 28 there 10 May (BY, MY); 1 at Melco 10 May (BPa et al.); 8 at Morgan Pond 18 May (HC); and up to 8 (23 May [TD]) at McElroy Lake during the last week of May with 1 last seen there 28 May (JH).

**American Golden-Plover** – reports of interest included 5 at McElroy Lake 23 March (TD); 47 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 24 March (BPa, JBa, TG); 65 e. of Open Pond 28 April (HC, JH); 63 n. of Lake No. 9, *Fulton*, 30 April (BY, MY); and a very tardy bird at McElroy Lake to 24 May (BPa, CBs).

**Semipalmated Plover** – 1 at McElroy Lake 5 April (ph. BPa, JBa) represented a new early arrival date for the state; other reports of interest included 2 at Melco 18 April (BPa et al.); 65 at Morgan Pond 3 May (HC); 76 at Walton Pond 6 May (JSo); 50 at Melco 11 May (RFa et al.); 50 s. of Middleton 10 May (TG, SG) with 161 there 12 May (RD); 29 at Jacobson Park 17 May (SP); and 200+ at McElroy Lake 15 May (TD, BPa, MM) with 25-30 still there 24 May (BPa, CBs) and 10 still there 28 May (VS).

**Spotted Sandpiper** – 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 April (C&KHo) was the earliest to be reported; peak counts of interest included 18 at Walton Pond 6 May (JSo); 21 s. of Middleton 12 May (RD); and an especially impressive tally of 37 along the Barren River, e. *Allen*, 15 May (MBy). At least 10 were still at McElroy Lake 24 May (BPa, CBs) with 2 there (JH) and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio (TBa), both 28 May, being the latest to be reported.

**Solitary Sandpiper** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 29 March (RD) was the earliest to be

reported; 24 at Beckley Creek Park 24 April (CW, BPa) and 25 at the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 30 April (JSo) represented the peak counts for the season; 3 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 24 May (JW) were the latest to be reported.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – peak counts included 40 at Sauerheber 4/23 April & 2 May (CC) with 100 there 26 April (CC); 64 at a transient pond along US 79 nne. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 5 April (BPa, JBa); 40 at Morgan Pond 24 April (BL); 61 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH); and at least 30 at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BPa). One at McElroy Lake 28 May (JH) was the latest to be reported.

**Willet** – it was a poor season with reports from only three locales: 1 at Morgan Pond 9 April (JH) with 2 there 26 April (HC, JH) and 1 there 3 May (HC); 2 along McElwain Road sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (CW, BWu, BPa); and 47 at McElroy Lake 3 May (TD).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – 2 at Stone Place Stables 15 March (BPa et al.) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 182 at Open Pond 17 April (HC); 70 s. of Middleton 18 April (RD); at least 720 along KY 1155 sw. of Rumsey, *McLean* (BPa, CW, BWu), and 800 at Sauerheber (KMi), both 26 April, that represented new state high counts for spring until three days later (see next entry!); 250 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH) with 810, another new state high count for spring, there 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG); 150 at Mud Creek 29 April (HC, RD); 300 s. of Middleton 28 April (RD) with 162 there 4 May (RD) and 136 still there 12 May (RD); at least 55 at Melco 29 April (BPa); and 370 at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BPa). One at McElroy Lake 28 May (VS, JH) was the latest to be reported.

**Upland Sandpiper** – there were two reports: 1 along US 79 n. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 30 March (ph. JH) and 1 at McElroy Lake 7 May (TD).

**Whimbrel** – there were three reports: remarkably early individuals in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 22 April (ph. JSo) and

at McElroy Lake 23 April (†TD), with 3 at the former location 7-8 May (ph. JSo, TG, SG). KBRC review required.

**Ruddy Turnstone** – there were five reports, all from McElroy Lake: 1 there 18 May (TD et al.) with 15 there 21 May (TD), 20 there 22 May (JSo), 3 there 23 May (RD, DSV, TG, SG, et al.), and 1 last seen there 25 May (TD).

**Ruff** – 1 was present at McElroy Lake 17 May (†BPa, ph. MY, ph. BY, TD). KBRC review required.

**Stilt Sandpiper** – 2 at Morgan Pond 26 April (HC, JH) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 8 at Melco 15 May (BPa et al.); mostly small numbers at McElroy Lake 5-25 May (TD et al.) with a peak count of 35 there 23 May (TD); 23 s. of Middleton 16 May (RD); and 1 at Jacobson Park 17 May (SP).

**Sanderling** – there were only three reports: 1 at Ky Dam Village 9-10 May (ph. BY, ph. MY) and 1 at Parsons Pond (ph. FL) and 2 at McElroy Lake (TD et al.), both 18 May.

**Dunlin** – reports of interest including generally modest local peak counts included 6 at Mud Creek 22 April (JSo); 1 at Melco 27 April/9 May (BPa et al.); 20 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu); 60 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); 35 at Horseshoe Road 13 May (CC); generally small numbers at McElroy Lake 15-28 May (TD, VS, et al.) with peak counts of ca. 30 there 17 May (TD et al.) and ca. 75 there 25/28 May (TD); and 40 s. of Middleton 19 May (TG, SG).

**Least Sandpiper** – 1 along US 79 n. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 30 March (JH) was the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 156 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 5 May (HC); 75 at Open Pond 9 May (BY, MY); 211 at Ellis Park 11 May (JMg); 120+ at Melco (BPa et al.) and 151 s. of Middleton (RD), both 12 May. Small numbers at McElroy Lake 28 May (JH, VS) were the latest to be reported.

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – reports of interest included 3 e. of Cadiz, *Trigg*, 5 May (TLe); 4 at Walton Pond 6 May (JSo); 2 at Melco 9-11 May (BP<sub>a</sub> et al.); 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 12-13 May (BP<sub>a</sub> et al.) and again 25 May (BP<sub>a</sub>); 1-5 at McElroy Lake 5-29 May (LCr, TD, VS, JH, et al.); 5 at J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 14 May (JSo); 1-2 s. of Middleton 10/15 May (TG, SG/BP<sub>a</sub>, MM); 1 at Jacobson Park (SP et al.) and 3 at Horseshoe Road (CC), both 17 May; and 1 at Camp #9 on 24 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, CBs).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – 3 at Beckley Creek Park 16 March (TBa) were the earliest to be reported. Modest local peak counts included ca. 400 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, and 200 sw. of Jewell City, *Hopkins*, both 24 March (BP<sub>a</sub>, JBa, TG); 100 at Sauerheber 12/24 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, BBC/KMi); 150 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26 April (CW, BWu, BP<sub>a</sub>); 50 at Long Point 29 April (RD, HC, SG, TG); 160 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); and 221 at and adjacent to Obion WMA 5 May (HC);

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – local peak counts included 75+ at Melco 15 May (BP<sub>a</sub>) with 86 there 17 May (BP<sub>a</sub>) and 110+ there 18 May (BP<sub>a</sub> et al.); 500+ at McElroy Lake 15-19 May (TD et al.) with 200 there 23/28 May (TD et al./JH) and 400 there 29 May (TD); 200+ s. of Middleton 15 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, MM) with 150 there 16 May (RD); ca. 100 at Parsons Pond 15 May (FL); 230 at Camp #9 on 24 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, CBs); and 46 at the Falls of the Ohio 25 May (BP<sub>a</sub>). Small numbers lingered at several site into early June.

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – singles at McElroy Lake 21 April (TD) and at Morgan Pond 24 April (†BL) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 10 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL); 15 s. of Middleton 10 May (TG, SG); small numbers at McElroy Lake 5-22 May (LCr, JSo, et al.) with peak counts of at least 10 there 17 May (TD, BY, MY, BP<sub>a</sub>) and 36 there 18 May (TD); 10 at Morgan Pond 18 May (HC); and 11 at Parsons Pond 18 May (ph. FL).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – 1 along Aurora Ferry Road, *Boone*, 26 March (†LM) was quite early. Local peak counts included 14 at McElroy Lake 25 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, CW, BWu); 12 along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, CW, BWu); most or all of 28 dowitchers at McElroy Lake 30 April (TD, BP<sub>a</sub>); 50 at Long Point 28 April (HC, JH) with 22 there 29 April (HC, RD, TG, SG); 6 at Sauerheber 2 May (CC); and at least 10 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 4 May (BL). Singles at Melco 12 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, ph. JBa, et al.) and s. of Middleton 15 May (†BP<sub>a</sub>, MM) were relatively tardy.

**Wilson's Snipe** – peak counts included 160 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 March (MBy); 101 at the J.C. Jones sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 27 March (JSo) and at least 75 at Beckley Creek Park 29 March (TBa).

**American Woodcock** – the frigid late-winter weather resulted in a tardy return with most initial observations for the year occurring during the second week of March. (m. ob.).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – there were reports from seven locales: a male along KY 1155 n. of Cypress Creek sw. of Rumsey, *McLean*, 26 April (CW, BWu, BP<sub>a</sub>); singles at Sauerheber 26 April (KMi) and 1 May (RLe); 5 at Long Point 28-29 April (HC et al.); 1 at Mud Creek 30 April (BY, MY); singles in the Lower Hickman Bottoms (BL) and s. of Middleton (RD), both 4 May; and 4 at McElroy Lake 8 May (TD).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – generally modest local peak counts included 450 at Barren River Lake 3 March (MBy, MkB); 100 above Wolf Creek Dam 27 March (RD); 50 at McElroy Lake 29 March (SK, JK); and 60 on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 April (C&KHo). A first-year bird at Taylorsville Lake, *Spencer*, 23 May (ph. KB) was very tardy.

**Franklin's Gull** – an ad. at McElroy Lake 21 April (LCr, TD) was the only one reported.

**Laughing Gull** – there were three reports: an ad. at Ky Dam Village 2 May (BP<sub>a</sub>,



TQ); an ad. at McElroy Lake 17 May (ph. BY, ph. MY, TD, BPa); and an ad. at Melco 20 May (BPa, ph. CBs, et al.).

**Ring-billed Gull** – local peak counts of interest included 500+ at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March (BPa et al.); at least 7000 at Barren River Lake 3 March (TD); 350 at Cedar Creek Lake 7 March (RD); 400 at Stone Place Stables 11 March (MW, BPa, et al.); and 1100 in agricultural fields along US 79 nw. of Hadensville, *Todd*, 9 March (JH).

**California Gull** – the ad. at the Falls of the Ohio was seen again 1 March (†BPa et al.). Under KBRC review.

**Herring Gull** – 350 were at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March with a few hundred still on the Ohio River at Louisville to 3 March (BPa et al.) and ca. 150 were still at Ky Dam 11 March (JSO).

**Iceland Gull** – the wintering first-year bird on the Ohio River at Louisville was last seen 15 March (BPa, ph. TQ, et al.). Under KBRC review.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – an ad. lingered on the Ohio River at Louisville to 1 March (BPa et al.) with 3 (2 ads. and a second-year bird) at Stone Place Stables 11 March (MW, ph. BPa, TBa); also reported was an ad. at Barren River Lake 2-3 March (MBy, MkB); a first-year bird at Ky Dam 7 March (HC) and a first-year bird at the Falls of the Ohio 3 May (ph. BY, ph. MY, BPa, et al.).

**Glaucous Gull** – the ad. and third-year birds on the Ohio River at Louisville were observed to 7 March (TBa, BPa, et al.).

**Great Black-backed Gull** – 2 first-year birds were at the Falls of the Ohio 1 March (BPa et al.) with 1 last seen in the vicinity 8 March (ph. BPa, CBs).

**Caspian Tern** – 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 31 March (HC, AN) was the earliest to be reported. Local peak counts of interest included 17 at Paradise 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu) and 14 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 28 April (RD) with 16 there 12 May (HC, AN). One at the Falls of the Ohio 28 May (TBe, CBe) was the latest to be reported.

**Black Tern** – there were reports from only two locales: 1-2 at McElroy Lake 15-20 May (m. ob.) with a peak count of 12 there 18 May (TD et al.); and 1 at Melco 17 May (JBa, et al.).

**Common Tern** – there were reports at three locales: at least 1 at the Kuttawa Rec. Area on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 11 May (BY, MY); 16 at the Falls of the Ohio 13 May (TBe, CBe, ph. BPa, et al.) with 4 there 14 May (TBe, TBa, et al.) and 22 May (JBa, BPa); and 1 at Jacobson Park 22 May (ph. DSv, LCo, RO).

**Forster's Tern** – a few apparently wintered at Blood River, but 21 were back by 17 March (HC); next earliest was 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 3 April (C& KHo); only very small numbers were reported at mostly traditional sites during April and May (m. ob.).

**Least Tern** – the only report was of at least 6 at Camp #9 and 1 at Camp #11, both 24 May (BPa, CBs).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – singles at Black-acre SNP, *Jefferson*, 24 April (TBa) and at Mammoth Cave 25 April (CW, BPa) were the earliest to be reported.



Great Black-backed Gull (first-year)  
Ohio River at Louisville, 8 March 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were at least 15 reports: 1 at the LBL Nature Station 24 April (JPr); singles heard at Cherokee Park 29-30 April & 6 May (RLa et al.); 1-2 at Pope Lick Park 1-9 May (PB, JBe, CBs, TBa et al.); 2 at the Taylor Fork Ecological Area, *Madison*, 2 May (JSu et al.); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 4 May



(DL, TN, MTw); 2 along Stockdell Road ne. of Stamping Ground, *Scott*, 4 May (SR); 1 heard at General Butler SP, *Carroll*, 4 May (SBu/JMc); singles heard at Figgett Bend, *Hart*, 6 May and nw. of Powderly 8 May (JSo); singles at Raven Run 5/9 May (LT/RO et al.); 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 11 May (JPo, J&KP); 1 nw. of Falmouth, *Pendleton*, 10 May (BDi); 1 sw. of Lawrenceburg, *Anderson*, 14 May (PG); and 1 w. of Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, 20 May (KD *fide* CD).

**Barn Owl** – there were four reports: 1 found dead in a barn wsw. of Cynthiana, *Harrison*, 3 March (SDu *fide* HH); 1 along Sullivan Lane, n. *Franklin*, 3 March (HH); 1 ne. of Lebanon, *Marion*, during mid-April (*fide* LCu); and 1 at Lucas, *Barren*, 22/24 May (DSn).

**Short-eared Owl** – the only reports were of 1 at the Sinclair Unit 8 March (MY, BY) and 2 at Spindletop Farm that were seen off and on to 4 April (DL, RO, AX, MTw, et al.).

**Chuck-will's-widow** – several birds were heard at and adjacent to McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, during May (BPa, CBs, et al.); a small number of birds have apparently been on territory in the vicinity since at least 2011 (SDi).

**Common Nighthawk** – singles at Murray, *Calloway*, 24 April (MTr) and at Cherokee Park 27 April (RLa) were the earliest to be reported.

**Chimney Swift** – 1 nw. of Stanford, *Lincoln*, 3 April (JE) was the earliest to be reported.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird** – singles at Almo, *Calloway*, 3 April (JF); se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 April (MBy); and at Benton, *Marshall*, 7 April (JPo) were the earliest to be reported.

**Merlin** – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 7 March (SP); 1 at Sauerheber 7 April (RD); singles at McElroy Lake on a few dates during March (TD) and 9 April (LCr); 1 at Beavers Knob, *Pike*, 11 April (JBl, DO); and 1 at Melco 21 April (JBa, BPa, CBs).

**Peregrine Falcon** – reports away from known breeding territories included 1 at Spindletop Farm 28 February/4 March (DSv/SCo); singles at Melco 14 March/23 April (BPa/MA); 1 in w. *Franklin* 21 March (JSo); 1 at Lexington 1 April (SM); 1 at Morgan Pond 5 April (JBa, BPa); 1 at Sauerheber 12 April (CC); an ad. in the Pond Creek Bottoms 26 April (BPa, CW, BWu); 1 near Ky Dam 28 April (JPo); 1 at Mud Creek 30 April (BY, MY); and singles at McElroy Lake 12/19 May (TG, SG/LCr, LD). A probable nest site occupied by a pair of birds was found on a cliffline along the Dix River, *Mercer*, 24 May (ph. TN).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were at least seven reports: 1 at Iroquois Park 9-10 May (MA et al.); singles at Surrey Hills Farm (BPa et al.) and at Schochoh, *Logan* (ph. ST), both 10 May; 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 12 May (JBy, MBy); singles at Cherokee Park 12-13 May (RLa, KR, et al.); 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 16 May (LM); and 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 21 May (BL).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were reports from seven locales: singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 12/22 May (BPa); 1 along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, 17 May (BL); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 20 May (AX, MTw); 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 21 May (BL); 1 heard at Thurman Hutchins Park, Louisville, 22 May (RLa); 1 at the Crenshaw Tract, Sauerheber Unit, 27 April (JMg); and 1 along Rock Lick Creek Road s. of Bethelridge, *Pulaski*, 31 May (RD).

**Acadian Flycatcher** – 1 at Waddy, *Shelby*, 21 April (TS) was the earliest to be reported.

**Alder Flycatcher** – there were reports from seven locales: singles at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, and at Sauerheber (JMg), both 12 May; 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 13 May (BPa et al.); singles at Melco on several occasions 13-17 May (BPa et al.); 1 on the Anchorage Trail 16 May (BPa, AM, CBs); 1 at Cherokee Park 19 May (AM); and 1 at Caperton Swamp

Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 24 May (KWi).

**Least Flycatcher** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 24 April (RO) was the earliest to be reported.

**Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles at six different locales 17 April (eBird data) were the earliest to be reported.

**Eastern Kingbird** – 1 at the the J.C. Jones Road sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 27 March (†JSo) was extremely early; singles along Loveless Road, *Pulaski*, 8 April and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 9 April (ph. RD) were the next earliest to be reported.

**Bell's Vireo** – 2 at the Sinclair Unit 28 April (TG, SG) were the earliest to be reported.

**Warbling Vireo** – 2 at Cherokee Park 11 April (CBs) were the earliest to be reported.

**Fish Crow** – a few had returned to *Fulton* by 11 March (HC, AN).

**Common Raven** – reports of interest included 1 at Pikeville, *Pike*, 26 March (JBI); 1 at Beaver Knob, Elkhorn City, *Pike*, 11 April (JBI, DO); 1 at Dewey Lake WMA, *Floyd*, 15 April (SF); a nesting pair at Buckhorn Lake, *Perry*, 3 May (SF); and 2 at Robinson Forest, *Breathitt*, 29 May (CLi).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** – 1 at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 20 March (RD) was the earliest to be reported.

**Purple Martin** – 3 at the LBL Nature Station 8 March (JPr) were the earliest to be reported.

**Tree Swallow** – individuals were first reported at several spots 8 March (eBird data); 500 at Sauerheber 26 April (KMl) represented the peak count for the season.

**Bank Swallow** – singles at Sauerheber 7/10 April (RD/SP) were the earliest to be reported.

**Barn Swallow** – 3 at Lake Linville 23 March (RD) and 2 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 24 March (RD) were the earliest to be reported.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – following the near absence of birds during the winter

season, there were only a few reports of possible migrants; 1-2 were present at the traditional Rock Bridge nesting area during the season (m. ob.).

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** – birds continued at the nesting area at Ky Dam Village SRP through the season (m. ob.) with the observation of a nest with nestlings being fed during early May (ph. FR) and up to 6 (presumably including fledglings) present during late May (MC et al.).

**Brown Creeper** – 1 at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette*, 15 April (TLu) was the latest to be reported away from documented nesting areas. The species was heard at Rock Bridge 17 April (FR) but there were no subsequent encounters at last year's nesting location there.

**Carolina Wren** – the period of harsh late-winter weather apparently resulted in at least some mortality in scattered areas (m. ob.).

**Winter Wren** – 1 at Cherokee Park 18 April (PB, JBe) was the latest to be reported.

**Sedge Wren** – there was only one report: 1 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 2/9 May (AC, CLi, et al./DHR).

**Marsh Wren** – there were reports from three locales: singles at Sauerheber 31 March/4 April/6 May (CC) and 30 April (RLe); 1 at Adkins Swamp 29 April (EH); 1 along the Barren River, se. *Allen*, 2 May (JBy, MBy); and 1 at Beckley Creek Park 2 May (RFa, RLa).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** – 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 27 April (JSo) were the latest to be reported.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – singles at LBL, *Lyon*, 14 May (BLi) and at Greenbo Lake SRP, *Greemp*, 15 May (DHu) were the latest to be reported.

**Eastern Bluebird** – extreme cold late winter conditions apparently resulted in quite a bit of mortality in some areas; specific reports of dead birds in roost/nest boxes included the Blue Grass Army Depot, *Madison* (GR); *Todd* (DHm); Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg* (R&JPK); and Land Between the Lakes (R&JPK).

**Swainson's Thrush** – at least 1 and as many as 3 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, 19 April (ph. BWo, BBC) were the earliest to be reported.

**Hermit Thrush** – singles at McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette* (DSv, LCo), and at Cherokee Park (JBa), both 4 May, were the latest to be reported.

**Wood Thrush** – singles se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10 April (MBy) and at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 11 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.

**Gray Catbird** – 1 at Independence, *Kenton*, 16 March (GD) was either a wintering bird or very early migrant; next earliest was 1 n. of Glasgow, *Barren*, 1 April (LCr).

**American Pipit** – 2 at Parsons Pond 6 May (FL) were the latest to be reported.

**Cedar Waxwing** – very few lingered through late winter into early spring; numbers began reappearing during the last week of April and the number of migrants peaked in numbers during the third week of May.

**Lapland Longspur** – 3 were last seen at Spindletop Farm 5 March (DSv); quite unexpected was a singing bird (not seen, but heard skylarking overhead) along Vaught Road, e. of Jewell City, *McLean*, 26 April (†CW, BPa, BWu).

**Louisiana Waterthrush** – singles at two locations in *Hart* 22 March (SK, BA) were the earliest to be reported.

**Golden-winged Warbler** – the species was scarce with only four reports: 1 nw. of Powderly 5 May (TG, SG); singles at LBL, *Trigg & Lyon*, 11 & 14 May, respectively (BL); and 1 in w. *Henderson* 12 May (JMg). Reports of hybrids included a Lawrence's at Minor Clark 21 April (†DL) and single Brewster's at LBL, *Trigg*, 23 April (ph. SG, TG) and at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 1 May (†RD).

**Prothonotary Warbler** – a tally of 106 along the Barren River and Long Creek, e. *Allen*, 15 May (MBy) represented a state high count!

**Swainson's Warbler** – singles at Rock Bridge 18 April (FR) and n. of Honeybee, *McCreary*, 25/26 April (RD, KOS/TG, SG) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 1 at Long Point 29 April (HC, RD) and 1 at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 1-23 May (HC, JPo).

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – it was a good season with reports of 1-2 birds at no less than 14 locales 12-29 April (eBird data); singles at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 10 May (SP) and at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 14 May (†PB, JBe) were particularly tardy.

**Connecticut Warbler** – there were reports from five locales: singles at Cherokee Park on a few dates 11-23 May (RLa et al.); 1 along the Anchorage Trail 16 May (AM, ph. PS, et al.); singles heard at Surrey Hills Farm 22 May (BPa) and at the Louisville Zoo 25 May (RLa); and 1 at Lexington 25 May (ph. DSv, LCo).

**Mourning Warbler** – there were reports of 1-2 birds at a dozen locales 4-28 May (eBird data).

**Common Yellowthroat** – singles at Clarks River NWR (JPo) and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski* (JD *fide* RD), both 4 April, and at Sauerheber 6 April (RLe) were the earliest to be reported.

**American Redstart** – 1 at Jenny Wiley SRP, *Floyd*, 8 April (TLu) was exceptionally early.

**Cape May Warbler** – 2 ne. of Goshen, *Oldham*, 18 May (BDa) were the latest to be reported.

**Cerulean Warbler** – 1 along KY 192, *Laurel*, 10 April (JMu) was the earliest to be reported.

**Northern Parula** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 1 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.

**Bay-breasted Warbler** – 1 at Cumberland Falls SRP, *Whitley*, 26 April (RD, KOS) was the earliest to be reported.

**Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 at Berea 22 April (RFo, RBa) was the earliest to be reported.

**Blackpoll Warbler** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 22 April (PB, BBC) was the earliest to be reported.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler** – reports of interest included early individuals at Natural Bridge SRP, *Powell*, 11 April (JMu) and at Mammoth Cave 12 April (WB *fide* SK); otherwise, single migrants were reported at nearly a dozen locales mostly in the central part of the state 22 April–14 May (eBird data).

**Wilson's Warbler** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 28 April (SP) was relatively early.

**American Tree Sparrow** – ca. 30 were still at Surrey Hills Farm 4-5 March (BP<sub>a</sub>).

**Vesper Sparrow** – 8 at Beckley Creek Park 28/29 March (MC, BBC/TBa) represented the peak count for the season; 1 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 21 May (RLr) was either a particularly tardy migrant or perhaps on territory.

**Lark Sparrow** – there were reports from three locales: 1 along McDonald Landing Road, w. *Henderson*, 12 April (CC) with 2 there 14 May (CC); 1 at Walton Pond 25 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, CW, BWu); and 2 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 26 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, CW, BWu).

**Savannah Sparrow** – a few se. of *Salvisa, Mecer*, 19/22 May (FM) may have been on territory; also tardy or on territory were 2 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 21 May (RLr).

**Grasshopper Sparrow** – 1 on the Murray State University campus, *Calloway*, 6 April (MTr) was the earliest to be reported.

**Le Conte's Sparrow** – there was only one report: 1 at Hardy Slough, *Sauerheber*, 12 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, ph. SG, ph. JB<sub>a</sub>, BBC).

**Henslow's Sparrow** – 1-2 at Surrey Hills Farm 7-9 April (BP<sub>a</sub> et al.) were the earliest to be reported; a nesting colony of at least 4 territorial males was discovered at McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, 9 May into June (BP<sub>a</sub>, CBs, et al.).

**Fox Sparrow** – a late peak of 5 birds at Surrey Hills Farm 1 April likely demonstra-

ted a peak in migratory movement (BP<sub>a</sub>); 1 was last seen there 8 April (BP<sub>a</sub>).

**White-throated Sparrow** – 1 in e. *Jefferson* 15 May (JW) and 2 at the Lexington Cemetery 19 May (RO) were the latest to be reported.

**Harris's Sparrow** – there were three reports: the ad. that wintered n. of Dot, *Logan*, was last seen 4 May (ph. FL); an ad. was at the Vogue Unit of Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*, 26/30 April (ph. CW, ph. BWu, BP<sub>a</sub>/ph. BP<sub>a</sub>); and a very tardy ad. was reported at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 24 May (†JPe). KBRC review required.

**White-crowned Sparrow** – 1 along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski* (RD), 1 at St. Matthews, *Jefferson* (MF), and 2 at Schochoh, *Logan* (ST), all 15 May, were the latest to be reported.

**Dark-eyed Junco** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 29 April (MBy) was the latest to be reported.

**Scarlet Tanager** – 1 at Berea 9 April (RB<sub>a</sub>, RFo) was the earliest to be reported.

**Blue Grosbeak** – 1 w. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, 14 April (TG) was the earliest to be reported.

**Indigo Bunting** – 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 9 April (MBy) were the earliest to be reported.

**Dickcissel** – 1 along Batts Road, sw. *Graves*, 17 April (MCo) was the earliest to be reported; a few birds were again on territory at the Eastpark Industrial Park during May (m. ob.).

**Bobolink** – ca. 30 were along KY 7 s. of Grayson, *Carter*, 5-6 May (EM).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – there were three reports: ca. 10 along KY 1155 n. of Sacramento, *McLean*, 24 March (BP<sub>a</sub>, JB<sub>a</sub>); 5 at Surrey Hills Farm 3 April (BP<sub>a</sub> et al.); and at least 150 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 5 April (BP<sub>a</sub>, ph. JB<sub>a</sub>).

**Purple Finch** – peak counts included 15 at the Alpine Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 25 March (RD) and 25 at Berea 4-6 April (RFo, RB<sub>a</sub>); migrants were conspicuous during April with a few lingering into



May; 1 at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 13 May (JPe) being the latest to be reported.

**Common Redpoll** – the female continuing from the winter season at Lexington was last seen 26 March (AH).

**Pine Siskin** – a pronounced wave of migrants arrived during mid-April with num

bers actually peaking during early May including peak counts of 50 at Berea 3 May (RFo, RBa) and at least 56 at Iroquois Park, Louisville, 9 May (BPa, CBs). A few birds lingered into mid-May with 1 at Berea 22 May (RBa, RFo) and 1 at Bronston, *Pulaski*, 31 May (JPe, ph. TC) being the latest to be reported.

**Observers:** Michael Autin (MA), Bonnie Avery (BA), Jamie Baker (JBa), Thom Barnell (TBa), Scott Barrett (SBa), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Colleen Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TBe), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CBs), Josh Blackmon (JBl), Karen Bonsell (KB), Sara Burch (SBu), Gerald Burnett (GB), Wendy Burt (WB), Mike Callan (MC), Tim Carter (TC), Robert Chadwick (RC), David Chaffin (DC), Hap Chambers (HC), Alex Clark (AC), Suzanne Clingman (SCl), Marta Coleman (MCo), Lisa Combs (LCo), Marge Constan (MCn), Sam Corbo (SCo), Linda Craiger (LCr), Charlie Crawford (CC), Susan Crew (SCr), Lloyd Curry (LCu), Lisa Dalporto (LD), Brian Davis (BDa), Gene Dennis (GD), Julie Denton (JD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Barb Dickison (BDi), Scott Dickman (SDi), Cheryl Dorman (CD), Kurt Dorman (KD), Diana Dubbeld (DD), Sara Dunham (SDu), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Linda Easter (LE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Rand Falls (RFa), Millie Farmer (MF), Caleb Fligor (CF), Jan Flynn (JF), Rob Foster (RFo), Scott Freidhof (SF), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Wallace Gullett (WG), Joe Hall (JH), Debbie Hamilton (DHm), Erin Harper (EH), Drew Harvey (DHR), Curt & Kathy Hofer (C&KHo), Chris Holt (CH), Ian Horn (IH), Heather Housman (HH), Alice Howell (AH), Mason Howell (MH), Derek Hudgins (DHu), Brian Johnson (BJ), Tim Johnson (TJ), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Rob Lane (RLa), David Lang (DL), Carol Langford (CLa), Richard Lee (RLe), Roger Lemaster (RLr), Tony Leukering (TLe), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Chris Lituma (CLi), Charlie Logsdon (CLo), Terri Lusk (TLu), Frank Lyne (FL), John MacGregor (JMr), Scott Marsh (SM), Jacob McCartney (JMc), Doug McCoy (DMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JMg), Keith Michalski (KMi), Frank Mitchell (FM), Katrina Moeller (KMo), Mark Monroe (MM), Evelyn Morgan (EM), Daniel Moss (DMo), James Muller (JMu), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Susan Neace (SN), Anne Newberry (AN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Daryl Owens (DO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPa), Robert & Judy Peak (R&JPK), Sydney Penner (SP), James Perlowski (JPe), Bill Pike (BPi), Charlie Plush (CP), John Pollpeter (JPr), John & Katie Powell (J&KP), Josh Powell (JPo), Meg Quarles (MQ), Tommy Quarles (TQ), Spencer Reinhard (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Keith Richardson (KR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Vicki Sandage (VS), Tanner Shepard (TS), Amy Simmons (AS), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JSO), Pam Spaulding (PS), Joe Springer (JSp), Dirk Steenbergen (DSn), Del Striegel (DSt), Josh Suich (JSu), Dave Svetich (DSv), Jared Teague (JT), Laurie Thomas (LT), Melanie Torres (MTr), Mark Tower (MTw), Steve Tyson (ST), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MW), Sean Ward (SW), Katheryn Watson (KWa), James Wheat (JW), Keith Wilbourn (KWi), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Chris Wood (CW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Gale Wulker (GW), Antonio Xeira (AX), Aviva Yasgur (AY), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY).

## NEWS AND VIEWS

**Visit the K.O.S. Website**

To learn about the Kentucky Ornithological Society, visit the KOS website at the following link: <http://www.birdky.org/>.

**Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available**

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia “Ginny” Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to K.O.S. and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to a young birder between the ages of 13 and 18 who lives in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition for a young birder to attend an American Birding Association Summer Camp. Details about the A.B.A. camps can be found on the A.B.A. website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the K.O.S. web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to K.O.S. at a meeting, or in writing. The deadline to apply for a 2016 Kingsolver Scholarship is May 15, 2016.

**K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available**

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/anne-stamm-fund.html>) or you can contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at ([scott.marsh@twc.com](mailto:scott.marsh@twc.com)).

**K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available**

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.birdky.org/burt-monroe-jr-fund.html>) or contact Kathryn Heyden, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman’s Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 ([kathryn.heyden@ky.gov](mailto:kathryn.heyden@ky.gov)).

***The Kentucky Warbler Available in PDF Format***

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive their quarterly journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now do so. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society’s Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at the following address: [brainard@mindspring.com](mailto:brainard@mindspring.com).

(continued on following page)

### K.O.S. Establishes New Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of Louisville

At the winter meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, the Board voted to establish a new Endowment Fund with the Community Foundation of Louisville (CFL). CFL is the largest charitable foundation in Kentucky with over \$430 million in assets and more than 1350 different funds, each with a charitable purpose defined by the donor. In 2014, the Community Foundation made over 8000 grants totaling \$45 million to local, national, and international nonprofits.

The Society's initial contribution of \$25,000 to the new Endowment Fund came from principal and earnings from the long-standing Gordon Wilson Fund (about \$24,000) and a small portion (about \$1000) of the Society's General Operating Fund. That amount is now essentially "locked up" in perpetuity to support the Society's charitable activities. The Gordon Wilson Fund was established in 1957, with proceeds to be used for the following purposes: 1) to assist in the improvement and expansion of *The Kentucky Warbler* by printing of photographs and other illustrations of ornithological interest in the journal; by printing of tables, graphs, maps, and other illustrative materials requiring special treatment; and by assisting in the cost of publication of long papers, such as monographs and occasional papers beyond the scope of the finances of the Society; 2) to assist in financing of research projects related to ornithology of Kentucky and adjacent states; and 3) to award fellowships and scholarships for the study of ornithology in schools and colleges and research stations.

The performance history of CFL's "socially responsible" investment option chosen by the Board suggests that the Fund will generate about five percent (or about \$1250) each year that can be used to assist in funding bird-related conservation and research projects, or scholarships.

As a participating member of the CFL, the Society has been registered as a qualifying recipient for donations that will be solicited through a one-day, internet giving campaign called "Give Local Louisville" that will occur on October 1, 2015. Visit the Give Local Louisville web site at (<http://www.cflouisville.org/grants-partnerships/give-local-louisville/>) or the CFL web site at (<http://www.cflouisville.org/>) to learn more about this exciting opportunity to donate to the Society as well as a wealth of background information on CFL.



California Gull (ad.) in pursuit of Ring-billed Gull, Falls of the Ohio  
1 March 2015

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.





Black Scoter (ad. male w/ White-winged Scoter)  
Jefferson Co., 12 March 2015  
Pam Spaulding



Brown-headed Nuthatch (w/ food at nest cavity)  
Marshall Co., 5 May 2015  
Frank Renfrow



Sanderling, Marshall Co.  
10 May 2015  
Ben Yandell



Harris's Sparrow (ad.), Muhlenberg Co.  
30 April 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Northern Shoveler x Blue-winged Teal, Jefferson Co.  
27 March 2015  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Madison Co.  
19 April 2015  
Katheryn Watson



# *The Kentucky Warbler*

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

SUMMER 2015 SEASON, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely .....	83
KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL 2015 MEETING, Blaine Ferrell, Recording Secretary .....	88
FIELD NOTES	
A Cursory Survey of Waterbird Nesting Colonies on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, 2015 .....	90
Breeding Bird Survey Evidence of Eastern Bluebird Mortality During Winter 2013-2014 .....	93
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	93

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### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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### THE COVER

We thank Eddie Huber for the image of the Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) taken at Prospect, northeastern Jefferson County (see p. 84). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## SUMMER 2015 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Weather conditions during June and July 2015 were somewhat variable across the state. The average monthly temperature at most stations was close to normal to slightly above-normal during both June and July. The amount of rainfall was variable during June; much of the state, particularly across the north and east, received about one and a half to two times normal rainfall, but the southern and western portions were below normal. Paducah, for example, received about one-half normal precipitation. July was particularly wet across the entire state, with more than two times normal rainfall being recorded at Louisville, Lexington, Paducah, and Jackson. Paducah received nearly 10.5 inches of rainfall during the month. Rarity highlights included Anhinga and Glossy Ibis. Least Terns had a very dismal nesting season due to high water on the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

**Abbreviations** – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “ba.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the individual bird was banded; “†” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; ad(s). = adult(s); juv(s). = juvenile(s); yg. = young. **Place names:** Adkins Swamp, Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg, Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon, Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson, Horseshoe Road = sloughs along Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Old Kuttawa Recreation Area, Lyon; Ky Dam (Livingston/Marshall); Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village SRP, Marshall; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, Jefferson; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; Morgan Pond, s. of KY 117 w. of US 41, Christian; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, Henderson; SRP = State Resort Park; Upper Hickman Bottoms, n. of Hickman, Fulton; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

**Blue-winged Teal** – small numbers lingered at Morgan Pond and along KY 115 n. of Oak Grove, Christian, into early June, with 10 last seen at the latter location 18 June (JH); also reported was a male at Stone Place Stables, ne. Jefferson, 28 June (BP).

**Gadwall** – a pair, presumably the same pair that lingered well into May, was observed at Spindletop Farm, Fayette, 10 June (AX).

**Northern Shoveler** – 2 males were still at Morgan Pond 9 June (HC) with 1 last seen there 12 June (JH); a male was at Stone Place Stables, ne. Jefferson, 20 July (BP).

**Ring-necked Duck** – a male was observed on Lexington Reservoir #1 on 3 June (SC).

**Lesser Scaup** – at least 43 (most or all likely injured) were on Lake Barkley above the dam 17 June (BP, JSo); also reported were 2 at Ky Dam Village 13 June (S&SW) and 1 at Ky Dam 15 July (ph. TQ).

**Bufflehead** – a female was observed at Ky Dam Village 13 June (ph. S&SW).

**Common Goldeneye** – there were three reports of injured or summering females: 1 near Kuttawa 6 July (RFi); 1 on Ky Lake above Ky Dam 9 July (HC); and 1 near KenLake SRP, Calloway, 14-16 July (ph. TQ).





Glossy Ibis, *Jefferson*  
27 June 2015  
Karen Bonsell

**Hooded Merganser** – a female with yg. was observed at Horseshoe Road 6/13 June (CC); 5 juvs. at Big Rivers WMA, *Crittenden*, 16 June (BP) were likely hatched locally.

**Ruddy Duck** – a presumed tardy spring migrant was observed on a lake ese. of Mud Lick, *Monroe*, 3 June (ph. RD).

**Ruffed Grouse** – two reports from Raven Run Sanctuary, *Fayette*, during the season (SM, TLu) indicated that a small breeding population persists at that locale.

**Common Loon** – presumably the same bird was seen on Ky Lake above the dam 25 June (SP) and 2 July (BP).

**Pied-billed Grebe** – 2 were last seen on Morgan Pond 7 June (JH); 1 on a lake w. of Georgetown, *Scott*, 19 July (SJ) may have been an early migrant.

**Double-crested Cormorant** – as has become the norm in recent years, singles and small groups were reported from scattered locales away from known breeding areas during summer (eBird data). These reports included single individuals as far east as Minor Clark 5/8 July (JSo/MH); Dewey Lake, *Floyd*, 20 July (TLu); and Wood Creek Lake, *Laurel*, 22 July (AK).

**Anhinga** – 1 was seen soaring over the head of the Boyds Branch embayment of Ky

Lake near Hamlin, *Calloway*, 12 July (†HC). KBRC review required.

**American White Pelican** – 1 above Barkley Dam 17 June/2 July (BP, JSo/BP) and possibly 2 on the McNabb Creek embayment of Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 10 June (TLe, WL) were likely injured; however, 12 at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, 20 June (JK), 7 at Kuttawa 2 July (BP, CP), and 9 over Lake Barkley near Devils Elbow, *Trigg*, 3 July (JH), and were all capable of flight, suggesting that small numbers of likely sub-ad. birds are now summering regularly.

**Least Bittern** – the only reports originated from Adkins Swamp where 1-2 were reported 16 June–16 July with an impressive peak count of 11 tallied there 30 June (ph. SG, TG, et al.).

**Great Egret** – local peak counts included 36/35 at the Falls of the Ohio 10/13 June (TBe, CB/JW, SW); 27 at Melco 20 July (JBa, BP); 28 at Sauerheber 28 June (CC); and 320 along Mud Creek e. of Hickman, *Fulton*, 31 July (BP, MM).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron** – perhaps as many as 75 nests were active on Shippingport Island, Louisville, 28 May (BP, EM).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – there were reports from three locales: an ad. at Sauerheber 9 June (CC); 2 at the Canal Public



Use Area just n. of LBL, *Lyon*, 13 June (S&SW); and 1-2 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, during late June (JSo, JP).

**Glossy Ibis** – 1 at Stone Place Stables, ne. *Jefferson*, 27 June (ph. AL, et al.) represented a first confirmed report for the species for the county. KBRC review required.

**Osprey** – reports of birds away from known nesting territories continue to increase; such reports of interest included 2 at Melco 20 June (BP); 1 at Persimmon Ridge Golf Club, *Shelby*, 1 July (JM); 1 at Wood Creek Lake, *Laurel*, 13-22 July (AK); 1 at Winchester, *Clark*, 15 July (AX); 2 at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 21 July (BD); and 1 along the Dix River, *Mercer*, 26 July (TN). Some of these reports, especially during mid- and late July, may represent early dispersing birds. The nest near Jacobson Park, Lexington, *Fayette*, was successful this year (TN).

**Mississippi Kite** – the species expanded remarkably in Louisville this summer or birders simply caught up to how many nesting pairs are actually in the area with likely at least *five* pairs documented as follows: 2 pairs including observations of juvs. at St. Matthews (MC, BWo, et al.); an active nest at Cherokee Park with a second pair frequenting another portion of the Park during the season (JBa, MW, et al.); and a juv. rescued from a nest at Seneca Gardens 19 July (EWi). Also reported were 1 at McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, 4 June (ph. RFa); 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 8 June (MM); and 2 at Beckley Creek Park, *Jefferson*, 15 July (EWr).

**Northern Harrier** – 1 at Minor Clark 5 July (JSo) must have been an early migrant.

**Bald Eagle** – only four new territories (where eagles have not been documented in any previous years) were established or located during 2015, the most notable of which was in s. *Bullitt*. In large part probably the result of severe late winter and early spring weather, nesting success was lower this year than last. The total number of nesting territories documented

during 2015 was 131, the same total as 2014 (Slankard 2015).

**Common Gallinule** – the only report was for 1 at Adkins Swamp 30 June/3 July (SG, TG, et al.).

**American Coot** – 6 were last seen at Morgan Pond 7 June (JH); also reported were 1 at Minor Clark 13 June (DP); 2 at Adkins Swamp 9/16 July (RD, HC/SG, TG); and 1 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 12 July (HC).

**Black-necked Stilt** – 2 (a pair) were first seen at a transient pond on the w. side of KY 115 n. of Oak Grove, *Christian*, 4 June (ph. SA, JH) with up to 6 (3 pairs) present there 9-10 June (JH) and at least 2 on nests there to 16 June (JH). Water disappeared, however, and nesting was likely unsuccessful.

**American Avocet** – 9 were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM).

**Black-bellied Plover** – 1 was in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM).

**Semipalmated Plover** – 2 were still along John U. Young Road, *Logan*, 2 June (FL); 4 lingered at Horseshoe Road to 13 June (CC); 10 were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30-31 July (BP, MM).

**Killdeer** – 250-300 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM) represented the peak count for the season.

**Spotted Sandpiper** – presumed tardy migrants included 1 at the mouth of Indian Creek at Anderson City, *Anderson* 9 June (PG) and 1 at the J.C. Jones sinkhole ponds, *Hart*, 13 June (JSo). Presumed earliest fall migrants included 1 at Melco 1 July (RFa) 1 at the Boone Conservancy Park, *Boone*, 11 July (LM), and 1 at Ky Dam 15 July (TQ).

**Solitary Sandpiper** – 1 at Honker Bay, LBL, *Lyon*, 17 July (HC) and 2 at Melco 20 July (JBa) were the earliest to be reported.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – 1 at Melco 24 July (JBa) was the earliest to be reported.

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – singles at Sauerheber 21 July (CC) and Melco 24 July (JBa) were the earliest to be reported.

**Dunlin** – 1 at Horseshoe Road 6 June (CC) and 4 at Morgan Pond 9 June (HC) were the latest to be reported.

**Stilt Sandpiper** – 8 were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – 2 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 31 July (HC) were quite early.

**Least Sandpiper** – 4 were last seen at Horseshoe Road 13 June (CC); 35-40 were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30-31 July (BP, MM).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – 1 at Melco 20+ July (BP, JBa) was the earliest to be reported; probably 1000+ were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM) with 1200+ there 31 July (BP, MM).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – 6 along John U. Young Road, *Logan*, 2 June (FL); 3 at Horseshoe Road 6 June (CC), 3 at Melco 8 June (BP); 12 at a transient pond on the w. side of KY 115 n. of Oak Grove, *Christian*, 9 June (JH); and 15 at Morgan Pond 12 June (JH) were the latest to be reported; 20-25 fall migrants were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30-31 July (BP, MM).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper** – 1 was in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM).

**Laughing Gull** – an ad. was at Ky Dam 15 June (ph. JJ).

**Ring-billed Gull** – at least 100 were at Ky Dam Village by 2 July (BP).

**Herring Gull** – a sub-ad. at Ky Dam 17 June (BP, JSo) may have been summering.

**Least Tern** – nesting was almost totally unsuccessful on the Mississippi and lower Ohio Rivers due to high water levels during the season (CP, JBr); an estimated 400-500 nests were initiated between two sites (sandbars adjacent to Middle Bar, *Hickman*, and along the western margin of Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*) during early June; however, water rose, inundated all nests, and stayed up through July (CP, JBr). Reports of interest included up to 9 at Horseshoe Road to 13 June (CC) with 1

on the Ohio River nearby 30 July (CC); 1 at Ky Dam and 6 at Calvert City, *Marshall* (BP, JSo), all 17 June, that were likely from a nearby nesting colony at the latter; 5 on Lake Barkley at and near Devil's Elbow, *Trigg*, 3 July (JH); and probably 100-125 (including at least 2 juvs.) in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM). Juvs. at the last site suggested that some success probably occurred in agricultural land next to the river.

**Caspian Tern** – 2 at the Falls of the Ohio 10 June (TBa et al.); 3 there 13 June (JBa et al.); and 1 at Ky Dam 17 June (BP, JSo) all occurred between the normal spring and fall migratory periods; local peak counts during the season included 7 at Ky Dam 2 July (BP) and 10 at Ky Dam Village 15 July (TQ).

**Black Tern** – 7 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM) were the only ones reported.

**Forster's Tern** – 3 were in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 30 July (BP, MM).

**Common Tern** – a first-year bird was at the Falls of the Ohio 13 June (TBe, CB, et al.).

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were reports from three locales: 1 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 5 June/6 July (AC); 1 at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette*, 25 June (MT, AX); and 1 off Briar East Road, se. Lexington, *Fayette*, 5 July (BJ, DSv, LC).

**Barn Owl** – 2 at the Ken Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 12 June (RD) were the only ones reported.

**Peregrine Falcon** – there were two reports away from known nesting territories: 1 on the Ohio River bridge wnw. of Brandenburg, *Meade*, 10 June (DSt et al.) and 2 (a presumed pair) on a cliffline along the Kentucky River, *Mercer*, 26 July (ph. TN).

**Willow Flycatcher** – 1 at the head of the Boyds Branch embayment of Ky Lake near Hamlin, *Calloway*, 12 July (HC) was a local first.

**Bell's Vireo** – 1 was along KY 763 w. of Burna, *Livingston*, 16 June (BP); territorial birds continue to increase in *Henderson* with multiple birds at Sandy Watkins Park and Sauerheber (CC et al.).

**Purple Martin** – roost counts included ca. 10,000 s. of Madisonville, *Hopkins*, 19/23 July (SG, TG); and 2000 at Mt. Vernon, *Rockcastle*, 26 July (SF). Other late July roosts were detected on radar as follows: n. of Hickman astride the *Fulton/Hickman* line; Bowling Green, *Warren*, which then likely then moved to the more traditional area at Glasgow, *Barren*; Westpoint, *Hardin*; Lexington, *Fayette*; nw. *Boone*; London, *Laurel*; Williamsburg, *Whitley*; s. of Ashland, *Boyd*; and near Williamson, *Pike* (BP, SF).

**Bank Swallow** – 8 along the Cumberland River near Helm Road, *Russell*, 5 July (RD) were not near any known nesting colony.

**Eastern Bluebird** – the number of nests was significantly lower at LBL, *Lyon/Trigg*, and at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg*, this season, most likely due to severe late winter weather (B&JP).

**Northern Waterthrush** – 1 banded at Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 22 July (ba/ph. KS et al.) represented a new early arrival date for a fall migrant by two weeks.

**Swainson's Warbler** – a tally of 8 at and near the Little Lick Recreation Area, *Pulaski*, 17 June (RD) was impressive; the territorial bird at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, continued into early June (JP).

**Prairie Warbler** – a late nest at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, still contained nestlings 29 July (DM).

**Bachman's Sparrow** – the only reports were of 1 at the traditional nesting area on the *Trigg* portion of Ft. Campbell 12 June (DM) with 3 there 29 July (DM).

**Henslow's Sparrow** – reports of interest included 1 just e. of Buena Vista, *Har-*

*ison*, 14 June (BWu); at least 3 on territory ca. 0.5 mi. e. of Hardyville, *Hart*, 15 June (JSo); 1 singing w. of Burna, *Livingston*, 16 June (BP); 6 on territory along Mays Road, *Anderson*, 18 June (PG, ST); 4 each on territory in both the *Christian* and *Trigg* portions of Ft. Campbell 26 June (DM) with 1 still at the latter 29 July (DM); and nesting birds that continued at McNeely Lake Park, s. *Jefferson*, into July (m. ob.) with a juv. seen there 4 July (BP, ph.TQ).

**Lark Sparrow** – there were reports from two locales: 1 along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 5 July (CC) with 3 there 19 July (CC); and 4 (including birds carrying nesting material) on the *Trigg* portion of Ft. Campbell 12 June (DM).

**Savannah Sparrow** – there were three reports away from known nesting areas: 1 singing as if on territory e. of Hodgenville, *Larue*, 14 June (BP); 1 heard ca. 0.5 mi. e. of Hardyville, *Hart*, 15 June (JSo); and 2 at Valley Oak Cemetery, *Casey*, 16 June (RD), where the species was also found during 2014.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – 4 at Boone Cliffs SNP, *Boone*, 5 June (TF) were likely on territory. Also reported was a female that lingered from late May at Elizabethtown, *Hardin*, to 21 June (†JSn).

**Bobolink** – nesting season reports of interest included 1-2 along Warren Road, se. of Salvisa, *Mercer*, 3-22 June (FM); up to 20 at Camp Nelson Civil War Park, *Jessamine*, during the season (DL, ASK, TQ, TS, et al.) with birds observed carrying food there 18 July (DL, ASK); up to 10 at Hisle Farm Park, *Fayette*, 19-25 July (AX, BWu); and a male along KY 1988, *Woodford*, 19 July (IH) near where one was present during 2014.

**Pine Siskin** – quite unusual was 1 at a feeding station at Morehead, *Rowan*, 6 July (ph. SF).

**Observers:** Sharon Arnold (SA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Jamie Baker (JBa), Thom Barnell (TBa), Colleen Becker (CB), Tom Becker (TBe), John Brunjes (JBr), Hap Chambers (HC), Alexander Clark (AC), Lisa Combs (LC), Marge Constan (MC), Sam Corbo (SC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Brenda Dean (BD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Rand

Falls (RFa), Timothy Fennell (TF), Ray Fisher (RFi), Scott Freidhof (SF), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Joe Hall (JH), Mabry Hopkins (MH), Ian Horn (IH), Brian Johnson (BJ), Jim Johnson (JJ), Stephen Johnson (SJ), Albert Kayser (AK), Jim Kittinger (JK), David Lang (DL), T. Lenzal (TLe), Will Lewis (WL), Amy Lint (AL), Terri Lusk (TLu), Frank Lyne (FL), John Mann (JM), Scott Marsh (SM), Evan McKinney (EM), Lee McNeely (LM), Frank Mitchell (FM), Mark Monroe (MM), Daniel Moss (DM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), David Patick (DP), Bob & Judy Peak (B&JP), Sydney Penner (SP), Constance Powell (CP), Joshua Powell (JP), Tommy Quarles (TQ), Tanner Shepard (TS), Kate Slankard (KS), Jennifer Snyder (JSn), Jeff Sole (JSO), Del Striegel (DSt), Dave Svetich (DSv), Mark Tower (MT), Stephanie Turner (ST), Major Waltman (MW), Sean Ward (SW), James Wheat (JW), Steve & Sue Whitmer (S&SW), Eileen Wicker (EWi), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Ed Wransky (EWr), Brian Wulker (BWu), Antonio Xeira (AX).

**Additional Source:** Slankard, K. 2015. 2015 Bald Eagle Nesting Activity in Kentucky. Unpubl. rpt. Ky. Dept of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, KY. October 15, 2015.

### KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL 2015 MEETING

**Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Glasgow, Kentucky  
18-20 September 2015**

Blaine Ferrell, Recording Secretary

The fall 2015 meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Barren River Lake State Resort Park began with a Friday afternoon field trip at the Park for early arrivals led by Rob Lane. Carol Besse, Past President, convened the evening meeting at 7:04 p.m. CST. She opened the meeting by explaining why the President and Vice President could not be in attendance. A new member from Louisville, James Wheat, introduced himself to the group. Carol indicated the bird quiz would be postponed until Saturday evening. The scheduled guest speakers, Dr. Richie Kessler, professor of biology at Campbellsville University and chair of the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund (KHLCF), and Zeb Weese, staff biologist with the KHLCF, were unable to attend the evening meeting. Sarah Bell, one of this year's recipients of the Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship, gave a presentation about her experiences at the ABA Camp Avocet this past summer. Carol Besse introduced Sarah Bell and shared some of her background. Sarah had a really good time at the camp and garnered a large number of life birds. She described the accommodations, birding spots they visited, and shared pictures she had taken at the camp.

Carol Besse introduced Brainard Palmer-Ball who gave a talk about his 2013 Big Year: The Quest for 300. Brainard and Eddie Huber travelled far and wide across the state in 2013 trying to see as many of the roughly 305 species that are reported each year in Kentucky. Brainard gave an informative talk and showed photographs of some of the highlights he and Eddie saw during the year. They nearly reached their goal of 300, finding 299 species for the year. The Saturday field trip options were announced: Beginning at 8 a.m., Blaine Ferrell would lead a group to the dam spillway and Bailey's Point, Tom Durbin would lead a trip to the Narrows, Rob Lane would lead a trip to the Tunnel Nature Trail, and Brainard Palmer-Ball would lead a field trip to Bailey's Point. Afternoon trips would be a plant walk led by Jeff Sole, and birding trips by Carol Besse and Rebecca Bates beginning at 2:00 p.m. CST at the lodge entrance. Valerie Brown made an announcement about an event related to Aldo Leopold in Bowling Green Thursday evening. She offered to get an invitation for any KOS member who wanted to attend. Tom Durbin announced he had



Purple Martin houses to give away. The program concluded at 8:20 p.m. CDT. The Friday evening program was followed by a social hour.

The evening meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. CST in the conference room. Carol Besse conducted the bird quiz on behalf of Steve Kistler. A short business meeting followed the bird quiz. Carol presented the slate of officers: Pat Bell for President, David Lang for Vice President, Lee McNeely for Treasurer, Brainard Palmer Ball for Corresponding Secretary, Blaine Ferrell for Recording Secretary, and Rebecca Bates and Carol Besse for Councillors. Carol asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate of officers was accepted by acclamation. Blaine Ferrell tallied the species observed by members on Friday and Saturday. The total as of Saturday evening was 100 species. There were five species added to the list on Sunday for a total of 105 species for the weekend. Dr. Kimberly Bostwick, Senior Scientist for Public Engagement with BirdNote presented a talk entitled "Me, You, Birds, and Climate Change." She described what climate change is and its implications for the planet within the next 100 years. She explained the dangers of 2°C increase in temperature, and said that humanity is on a current trajectory to far exceed this number, possibly a 6°C increase. There will be dire consequences for all life on earth if we keep doing what we are doing. She outlined a series of steps each of us can take to contribute in our own way and explained how to participate in what she hopes will become a massive coordinated, intelligent, ambitious plan of action to address climate change. She explained how birds are like "the canary in the mineshaft" in demonstrating the effects of climate change. Kim gave examples of how several bird species have responded to climate change.

Sunday field trip options were presented at the conclusion of the talk. Trips would leave the lodge at 8:00 a.m. Linda Craiger would lead a trip to the Dry Creek Area, Jeff Sole would lead a trip to Brigadoon, and Lee McNeely would lead a walk around the lodge. Carol announced a Beckham Bird Club field trip to Cove Springs Park in Frankfort. James Wheat shared a humorous poem about birders by Ogden Nash. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. CST. Sunday morning field trips left the lodge at 8:00 a.m. and added several species to the weekend list.

#### **Attendance at the Fall 2015 K.O.S. Meeting**

Berea:	Rebecca Bates
Bowling Green:	Valerie Brown, Tom Durbin, Blaine Ferrell, Ken Kuehn, Marilyn Mattingly
Burlington:	Lee McNeely
Carlisle:	Wendell Kingsolver
Frankfort:	Tommy Quarles, Jeff Sole
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger, Sandra Moss, Grace Walker
Greenville:	Steve, Jessica & Teresa Graham
Henderson:	Julia Farmer
Herndon:	Andrew, Annette, Kathleen & Sarah Bell
Lexington:	Nancy Braun, Rhonda Bryant, David & Terri Lusk, Scott Marsh, Marie Sutton, Jim Williams
Louisville:	Bonnie Avery, Carol Besse, Carl Bochmann, Dick & Kathy Dennis, Rob Lane, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., James Wheat
Morehead:	Fred & Katie Busroe
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Waddy:	Tanner Shepard
Wilmore:	Sydney Penner
Floyd Knobs, IN:	Tom Becker, Colleen Craven-Becker

**Birds Observed at the Fall 2015 K.O.S. Meeting  
Barren River Lake State Resort Park and vicinity**

The following species were observed by KOS members during the weekend of 18-20 September 2015 at Barren River State Resort Park: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Empidonax* sp., Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The total number of species was 105.

### FIELD NOTES

#### **A cursory Survey of Waterbird Nesting Colonies on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, 2015**

On 3 July 2015 the authors conducted a qualitative survey of wading bird nesting colonies on Lake Barkley, Trigg/Lyon Counties. We visited five islands/clusters of islands on the lake by boat and two additional islands from the shoreline. Thunderstorms cut short visits to a couple of the locations, but a relatively accurate count of birds was obtained for all sites. This late in the season, a "relatively accurate" count means that one is able to determine what species are present, but numbers have to be rough estimates because of the number of flighted juveniles that are already scattered about in the trees and on the water (in the case of cormorants).

This survey was conducted in part because of problems that nesting Double-crested Cormorants are creating on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake. Less than twenty years ago, cormorants were not known to be nesting in Kentucky, having been extirpated as a breeding species during the DDT era of the mid-1900s. Since 2000, however, when cormorants were first found nesting in Kentucky again, numbers have swelled to probably more than 1000 pairs on several islands in Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake.

Wading birds (herons & egrets) typically can nest in deciduous trees for numerous years without severely impacting the vegetation. Cormorants, however, especially in such large numbers, can cause rapid and severe declines in deciduous trees. In Kentucky, particularly at Cunningham Island, Lyon County, there has been a remarkable negative impact. Not only are cormorants killing the larger trees, the death of the large trees is accelerating

erosion of the island itself. Cormorant impacts on the nesting wading birds and fishes of Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake are being studied by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources during 2015-2016 with recommendations for measures that might diminish impacts likely to follow.

### Survey Results

#### Islands/clusters of islands with no nesting activity detected

- 1) *Duck Island margin, Trigg Co.*
- 2) *Islands north of US 68/KY 80, Trigg Co.*
- 3) *Westernmost of two islands above Barkley Dam, Lyon Co.*

Islands/clusters of islands with nesting activity (Double-crested Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax auritus* [DCCO], Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias* [GBHE], Great Egret, *Ardea alba* [GREG], Little Blue Heron, *Egretta caerulea* [LBHE], Snowy Egret, *Egretta thula* [SNEG], Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis* [CAEG]).

- 4) *Easternmost of two islands above Barkley Dam, Lyon Co.* Birds at this nesting island were counted from several hundred yards to the east along the lake shoreline.

DCCO – ca. 150 (ads. + juvs) in trees; 200-250 more in vicinity on lake; at least ca. 30 nests observed

BCNH – 3 ads; no nests seen from Eureka Campground but could be tucked away behind foliage

CAEG – 15-20 ads; at least 2 on nests

- 5) *"Cunningham Island" just west of the Kuttawa Recreation Area, Lyon Co.* Visited by boat, circled the island twice.

DCCO – ca. 500 (ads + juvs) in trees and on water; ca. 125 nests visible, some still w/ large yg

BCNH – ca. 40 ads (1 incubating/brooding); 3 more nests w/ yg

CAEG – 2 ads (1 incubating/brooding)

GREG – 35-40 (ads + juvs) in trees and on ground; 3 ads at active nests

- 6) *"Powerline Crossing" islands off Taylor Bay, s. of mouth of Honker Bay, Trigg Co.* Visited by boat; circled the island once; cut short by threat of thunderstorms.

DCCO – 300-350 (ads + juvs); 200-225 nests, most empty but some still w/ yg (counted 183 nests but probably missed some in the vegetation, thus the higher estimate); nests concentrated in lines of larger trees near downstream ends of two different sections of trees

BCNH – 3 ads but no evidence of nesting

GREG – 1 ad but no evidence of nesting

- 7) *"Devils Elbow" islands, s of US 68/KY 80 bridge.* Visited by boat; circled island string twice. This is certainly the largest and most diverse nesting colony currently on Lake Barkley; as the cormorants have taken over Cunningham Island, especially the smaller waders seem to have retreated to this less heavily impacted (for now) island

DCCO – more than 500 but we think fewer than 1000 birds (ads + juvs) collectively in trees and on water; perhaps 45 trees have 10-20 nests/tree (perhaps an average about or slightly less than 15/tree) = 675 (600+ estimate?) active nests; perhaps 10-25% of these still had large yg (1-2) in them

BCNH – 25-30 ads; 6 active nests seen + some undetermined additional in foliage w/ calling/begging yg; at least 10 free-flying juvs

GBHE – 2 nests w/ yg (1 each) and 6+ free-flying juvs; surprised me to see GBHEs out there as they normally nest by themselves (or w/ GREGs) along the streams feeding the lakes.

GREG – 6+ ads; 2 free-flying juvs; 1 nest w/ yg

CAEG – 200-250 ads shuttling in and out; 40-50 active nest (both incubating/ brooding ads & w/ yg); 50+ free-flying juvs

LBHE – 12+ ads (2 incubating/brooding on nests); 20-25+ free-flying juvs

SNEG – 1 ad. observed displaying in trees in high breeding condition (orange feet/raspberry red facial skin); neither a nest nor another adult if present could not be seen in the foliage.

On 12 August 2015, Powell visited the only known waterbird nesting colony on Kentucky Lake, occupying the Patterson Island chain se. of the community of Hamlin, Calloway County. A total of 900-1050 Double-crested Cormorants were counted on and in the water surrounding three islands there with a crude estimate of 300-350 nests having been active earlier during the season. Only a few wading birds were observed.

### **Discussion of Changes in the Numbers of Nesting Wading Birds and Composition of Nesting Colonies**

The last relatively comprehensive wading bird nesting colony survey was conducted on Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake during 2004 (Palmer-Ball and Ciuzio 2004). At that time, nesting Double-crested Cormorants were still restricted to the Patterson Island chain in Kentucky Lake, Calloway County. The largest and most diverse nesting colony found during the 2004 survey was at Cunningham Island, Lake Barkley, Lyon County, and few if any birds were nesting on the islands in Lake Barkley near Devil's Elbow, Trigg County.

Soon after the 2004 survey was completed, Double-crested Cormorants moved into the Cunningham Island colony, and during succeeding years the number of wading birds has decreased. Whether the wading birds are most negatively impacted by direct competition for nest sites by the cormorants, or if the loss of foliage in nest trees is more significant, is unknown. Although not thoroughly documented, it appears that most of these nesting waders retreated south to their current colony location on Lake Barkley near Devil's Elbow, Trigg County (near where they had coincidentally nested for several years back in the 1980s). Concurrent with the arrival of the nesting wading birds was an increase in the number of nesting cormorants on the same Trigg County islands. The number of cormorants nesting on the easternmost of two islands in Lake Barkley above the dam also increased dramatically during the same time period.

It appears that negative impacts caused by Double-crested Cormorants have not yet reached a level that has caused an exodus of wading birds from these sites. However, it also appears to be apparent from the 2015 survey that wading birds have retreated to islands where there is less interaction (and perhaps competition) with Double-crested Cormorants for suitable nesting sites. Especially on the islands near Devil's Elbow, Trigg County, there remain enough trees with an abundance of foliage and no nesting cormorants that the wading birds apparently still find them suitable for nesting. In an effort to assure the presence of nesting wading birds in future years, their numbers will continue to be monitored.



### Literature Cited

Palmer-Ball, B., and E. Ciuzio. 2004. 2004 Survey of Kentucky Heronries. *The Kentucky Warbler* 80:87-96.

– Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 and Constance Powell, #1 Sportsman's Way, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

### Breeding Bird Survey Evidence of Eastern Bluebird Mortality During Winter 2013-2014

The late winter season of 2013-2014 was characterized by several periods of very cold temperatures with accompanying periods of snow and freezing rain. The northern and western portions of the state experienced the most severe conditions. Nest box inspections during spring 2014 revealed that the winter season had resulted in quite a bit of Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) mortality.

Data from the U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) were summarized for 2014 and compared to similar data for 2005 through 2013. The data show fewer Eastern Bluebirds detected on Kentucky BBS routes than in any of the past ten years, and in many regions and for the state overall the number detected during summer 2014 was less than half the nine-year average since 2005 (Table 1). The U.S. Geological Survey uses a non-standard system for designating physiographic regions. Region names in the leftmost column of Table 1 are defined in more familiar terminology in the Key beneath the table.

Table 1. Number of Eastern Bluebirds Detected on Kentucky BBS Routes, 2005-2014.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2005-2013 avg.	2014
Upper Coastal Plain	50	60	56	48	60	68	38	88	61	58.8	19
Highland Rim	257	257	260	282	277	235	159	288	303	257.6	133
Lexington Plain	50	77	22	51	63	45	40	93	78	57.7	29
Cumberland Plateau	80	65	51	87	52	73	72	31	23	59.3	26
Statewide	437	459	389	468	452	421	309	500	465	433.3	207

Key: Upper Coastal Plain (that portion of Kentucky west of Kentucky Lake [Jackson Purchase]; Highland Rim (all of central Kentucky except the northern Bluegrass); Lexington Plain (northern Bluegrass); Cumberland Plateau (all of eastern Kentucky).

BBS data are the most reliable that are available to assess songbird trends in North America due to the stringent protocol that is utilized on the roadside surveys. The data presented in Table 1 reflect data collected on about 35 roadside routes conducted by volunteers across the state every year. Thanks to Mikey Lutmerding with the U.S. Geological Survey Breeding Bird Survey for providing the Eastern Bluebird data for Kentucky presented here.

– Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222.

### NEWS AND VIEWS

#### Visit the NEW K.O.S. Web Site!

You may now find information about the Society on our new web site at the following address: [www.birdky.org](http://www.birdky.org). Please bookmark this web site address, as the former web site will be removed when the migration of all information is completed.

### Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia "Ginny" Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to K.O.S. and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to a young birder between the ages of 13 and 18 who lives in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition for a young birder to attend an American Birding Association Summer Camp. Details about the A.B.A. camps can be found on the A.B.A. website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the K.O.S. web site (<http://birdky.org/wendell-and-ginny-kingsolver-fund.html>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to K.O.S. at a meeting, or in writing. The deadline to apply for a 2016 Kingsolver Scholarship is May 15, 2016.

### K.O.S. Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at ([scott.marsh@twc.com](mailto:scott.marsh@twc.com)).

### *The Kentucky Warbler* Available in PDF Format

Members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society who wish to receive quarterly issues of the Society's journal, *The Kentucky Warbler*, in electronic format rather than hard copy through the mail may now receive them by email. If you wish to receive future issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* in digital PDF format, email the Society's Corresponding Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., at ([brainard@mindspring.com](mailto:brainard@mindspring.com)).

### It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2016!

Enclosed with this issue of *The Kentucky Warbler* is a membership renewal sheet and addressed envelope. Life members will receive a sheet listing opportunities to donate to the Society's various funds that are used for specific bird conservation activities.

## KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

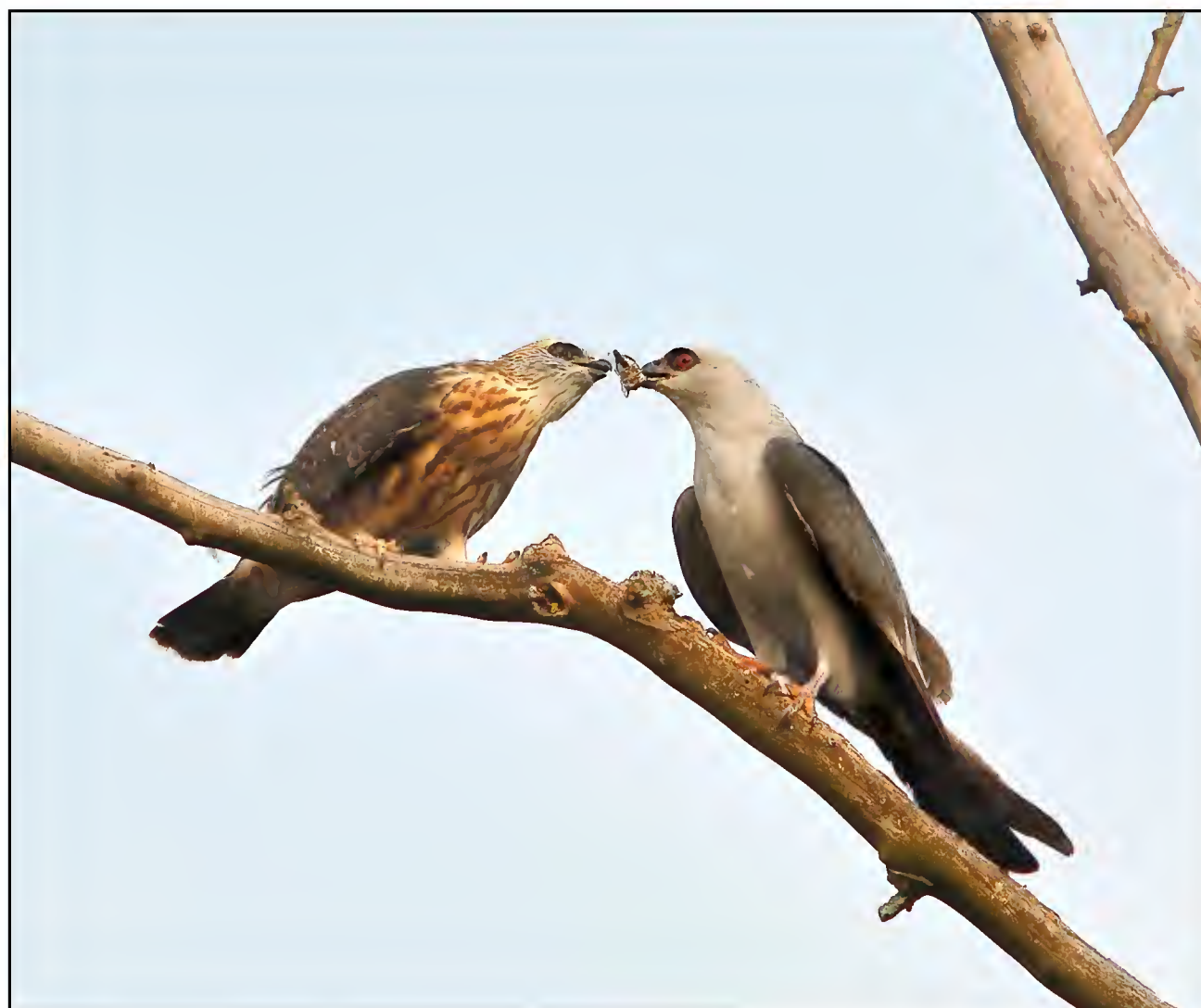
### Statement of Financial Position

August 20, 2015

Depository	Account	Balance
PNC Bank, Louisville	General Fund (Checking)	\$15,732.12
Comm. Foundation of Louisville	Endowment Fund (Established 2015)	\$25,000.00
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Burt Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund (Checking)	\$2,154.24
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Gordon Wilson Fund (Savings)	\$101.37
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund (Savings)	\$6,761.19
Heritage Bank, Burlington	Endowment Fund (CD)	\$19,608.75
Total assets		\$69,357.67

Submitted by Lee McNeely, Treasurer, August 20, 2015 (unaudited)

<b>KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY</b> <b>Operating Statement</b> <b>July 22, 2014 – August 20, 2015</b>		
<b>Beginning Balance (July 22, 2014)</b>		\$15,524.04
<b>Receipts</b>		
Dues (Renewals and New Memberships)	\$3,558.00	
Meeting Registrations (Fall 2014)	\$523.00	
Meeting Registrations (Spring 2015)	\$620.00	
Donations for Speakers	\$1000.00	
Sales ( <i>Annotated Checklists</i> , Field Cards, etc.)	\$148.75	
Anne Stamm Fund Donations	\$735.00	
Burt Monroe Fund Donations	\$710.00	
Gordon Wilson Fund Donations	\$585.00	
Kingsolver Fund Donations	\$4,215.00	
Endowment Fund Donations	\$700.00	
Burt Monroe Fund Reimbursement	\$1,873.60	
Anne Stamm Fund Reimbursement	\$500.00	
Gordon Wilson Fund CD (Cashed for transfer to new Endowment Fund)	\$24,625.25	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		\$39,793.60
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Printing – August 2014 issue <i>The Kentucky Warbler</i>	\$389.05	
Printing – November 2014 issue <i>The Kentucky Warbler</i>	\$440.57	
Printing – February 2015 issue <i>The Kentucky Warbler</i>	\$474.78	
Printing – May 2015 issue <i>The Kentucky Warbler</i>	\$413.84	
Meeting Speaker (Tim Gallagher)	\$1,573.00	
Meeting Speaker (Chris Wood)	\$1,360.20	
Meeting Speaker (Robert Peak)	\$100.00	
Meeting Expenses (Mammoth Cave NP, Spring 2014)	\$250.82	
Meeting Expenses (Lake Barkley SRP, Fall 2014)	\$354.04	
Meeting Expenses (Cumberland Falls SRP, Spring 2015)	\$271.27	
Meeting Expenses (Barren River Lake SRP, Fall 2015 deposit)	\$200.00	
Transfer to Anne Stamm Fund	\$605.00	
Transfer to Burt Monroe Fund	\$600.00	
Transfer to Gordon Wilson Fund	\$545.00	
Transfer to Endowment Fund	\$900.00	
Transfer to Comm. Foundation of Louisville (Establish New Endowment)	\$25,000.00	
Kingsolver Fund Award (American Birding Association)	\$2,390.00	
Burt Monroe Avian Research Fund Award (Joshua Suich)	\$873.60	
Burt Monroe Avian Research Fund Award (Dustin Brewer)	\$1,000.00	
Anne Stamm Education Fund Award (Pack 984)	\$500.00	
Corresponding Secretary Expenses (Postage, misc. printing, etc.)	\$1,326.35	
Bank Fees	\$18.00	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		\$39,585.52
<b>Net Receipts</b>		\$208.08
<b>Ending Balance (August 20, 2015)</b>		\$15,732.12



Mississippi Kites (juv. being fed a cicada), Cherokee Park, Louisville  
27 July 2015  
Pam Spaulding



Laughing Gull (adult), Kentucky Dam  
15 June 2015  
Jim Johnson



Pine Siskin (w/ American Goldfinches)  
Rowan Co., 6 July 2015  
Scott Freidhof